United Nations A/70/PV.4

General Assembly

Seventieth session

Official Records

4th plenary meeting
Friday, 25 September 2015, 11 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Lykketoft ..... (Denmark)

The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

High-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly

Agenda items 15 and 116

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

United Nations Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda

Draft resolution (A/70/L.1)

Co-Chair Rasmussen: This high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly is being held in accordance with resolutions 65/1 of 22 September 2010, 68/6 of 9 October 2013 and 69/244 of 29 December 2014, and decision 69/557 of 5 March 2015.

It is my honour, together with His Excellency Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, to welcome all members to this historic Summit for the adoption of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/70/L.1). The presence of so many leaders is a testament to the importance and transformative potential of this new Agenda.

When world leaders came together here in New York, 15 years ago, they came with one pivotal mission: to reduce poverty in the world. But equally important, they came with concrete and ambitious goals and they came with a fixed deadline.

Today, 15 years later, we are gathered again, here in New York, to assess what has happened over the past 15 years. The short answer is a lot. One billion people have been lifted out of extreme poverty. More girls than ever before go to school. More than 90 per cent of the global population now has access to an improved source of drinking water. The mortality rate of children under five has declined by more than half. These are not just numbers. Behind each of these figures we know that the lives of millions of children have improved, so we have indeed come a long way.

The Millennium Development Goals showed us that setting targets works and that working together is the right way forward, but the work is not done yet. Today we begin a new journey, a journey that builds on the success of the Millennium Development Goals, but also goes much further. We are gathered today to adopt the Sustainable Development Goals. Today each of us commits our nation not only to new far-sighted visions, but also to new concrete and realistic goals and a fixed deadline.

Our leadership and direction are needed. We must make sure that we live up to our firm and collective commitments, and I can assure the Assembly that Denmark is ready to do its part. We will continue our efforts to eradicate poverty, create decent jobs and increase sustainable economic growth. Since 1978, we have, as a country, met the international target of providing 0.7 per cent of gross national income to official development assistance to create better lives for all. I strongly urge many more countries to meet this goal.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

15-29149 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

Denmark strongly supports global public-private partnerships that catalyse investments in developing countries and middle-income countries. We strive to combat diseases, such as cancer and diabetes, by promoting healthy lifestyles, strengthening our health-care systems and fostering scientific research. We promote the technology in energy, climate change and the environment that makes a green transition possible, including beyond our own country.

Denmark will work for the full and equal participation of women, for their empowerment and for their human rights and, indeed, for the human rights of all. I assure members that Denmark will continue these efforts with determination. I encourage everyone to do the same so that 15 years from now, when world leaders will once again meet in New York, we will have met the goals we adopt here today.

The new Agenda has laid out our vision of where we believe the world should be in 2030. History will judge us and hold us accountable for achieving the results that we owe our children and their children. The Danish presidency of the seventieth session of the General Assembly will take the lead in implementing the Development Agenda to make sure we turn our words into action. With these words, I wish all members a successful Summit.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda and Co-Chair of the high-level plenary meeting.

Co-Chair Museveni: I am pleased to co-chair this important Summit as we gather as a community of nations to adopt a new development agenda that will guide our development efforts for the next 15 years. This historic Summit is the culmination of months of tireless efforts and an unprecedented commitment by Member States and stakeholders to formulate a universal, inclusive and transformative development agenda.

I would like to pay tribute to His Excellency Mr. Sam Kutesa, our Minister for Foreign Affairs, for his leadership and accomplishments as President of the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, and I thank the General Assembly for supporting Uganda in fulfilling that responsibility. I also wish to congratulate and convey my appreciation to the President of the General Assembly at its seventieth session, His Excellency Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, and the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for their leadership.

Today heralds the dawn of a new era in our collective efforts aimed at eradicating poverty, improving the livelihoods of people everywhere, transforming economies and protecting our planet. Together we are sending a powerful message to people in every village, every city and every nation worldwide that we are committed to taking bold steps to change their lives for the better. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that we will adopt today is ambitious in its scope and breadth. In the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development are addressed in an integrated way. The Agenda also carries forward the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Over the past 15 years, we have attained significant achievements through implementing the MDGs. Globally, more than 1 billion people have been lifted from extreme poverty, and improvements have been made in access to education, health, water and sanitation, advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women. In Uganda, we have been able to reduce the percentage of people living in extreme poverty from 56 per cent in the year 2000 to 19 per cent today. We have also attained universal primary education, promoted gender equality and the empowerment of women, and continued to reduce child and maternal mortality.

From our experience it has been clear that to sustainably achieve the MDGs we must have socioeconomic transformation. It is therefore refreshing that in the successor framework, the SDGs, key drivers of economic growth, including infrastructure development — especially energy, transport and information and communication technology — have been duly identified and prioritized. Also included are industrialization and value addition, human resource development through education and health, improving market access, and greater participation by the private sector.

While the SDGs will be universally applicable, we also recognize national circumstances, different levels of development and the needs of countries in special situations, particularly the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and African countries.

Taking urgent action to combat climate change and its severe impacts is also prioritized in the new Agenda. We should redouble our efforts to reach an ambitious, legally binding agreement on climate change in Paris in November, one that promotes the achievement of sustainable development while protecting the planet.

The new Agenda also rightly underscores the important linkages between development, peace and security, and human rights. We have to intensify efforts to combat transnational crime, terrorism and the rise of radicalization and violent extremism around the world. We should reject pseudo-ideologies that manipulate identity by promoting the sectarianism of religion and communities and eclipse the legitimate interests of the people afforded by investment and trade. Where identity issues are legitimate they should be expeditiously handled.

We should all be proud of what has been accomplished so far as we usher in the new Development Agenda. However, the critical next step will be to ensure its successful implementation on the ground. In this context, integrating the SDGs in our respective national and regional development plans, mobilizing adequate financial resources, technology development and transfer and capacity-building will be critical. We have to ensure full implementation of the comprehensive framework for financing sustainable development, which we adopted in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, to support achievement of the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

One of the major challenges many developing countries continue to face is gaining access to affordable long-term financing for critical infrastructure projects. In this regard, it will be vital to promptly establish and operationalize the proposed new forum to bridge the infrastructure gap and complement existing initiatives and multilateral mechanisms to facilitate access to long-term financing at concessional and affordable rates.

The efforts of developing countries to improve domestic resource mobilization, boost economic growth and address major challenges such as unemployment should be supported by development partners and international financial institutions and regional development banks. We also need to do more to promote micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, support entrepreneurship, especially for women and youth, and enhance the contribution of the private sector and other stakeholders in sustainable development.

Through privatization, the least developed countries themselves can also contribute to their own infrastructure development. In order to build effective, inclusive and accountable institutions at all levels, we have to ensure that the voices of the developing countries and regions are heard and that they are treated as equal partners in multilateral decision-making.

At the international level, we need urgent reform of the United Nations — particularly of the Security Council — and of our multilateral institutions in order to reflect the current geopolitical realities. We need a renewed global partnership for development in which all the commitments made — including on overseas development, aid, trade and investments — are fulfilled. While the draft 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/70/L.1) represents the collective aspirations of all peoples, its success will hinge on its ability to reduce inequalities and improve the lives of the most vulnerable among us, including women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

After months of intensive negotiations and steadfast commitment, we have before us an Agenda that represents our best opportunity to transform our world. We have heard the voices of people spanning the globe — from eager children asking for access to equality education to young women seeking better maternal health care; from rural villages whose farmlands have been ravaged by droughts to the coastal fishermen on small islands States who fear that their entire existence will soon be subsumed by the rising sea levels. We continue to witness the influx of refugees and migrants into Europe from Africa and the Middle East, which is partially caused by conflict and a lack of economic opportunities. Those voices may speak many languages and dialects, but, in the end, their message is the same: Please help us to live happier, more prosperous lives, while also protecting the planet for our children and grandchildren.

After the adoption of the Agenda, it is incumbent upon us all to take the development aspirations laid out in that document and turn them into reality on the ground for the benefit of our people, our communities and our nations. The Agenda will create global prosperity — different from the past arrangements, which provided prosperity for some but at the cost

of parasitism, misery and underdevelopment for the others.

Co-Chair Rasmussen: I now give the floor to the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

The Secretary-General: We have reached a defining moment in human history. The people of the world have asked us to shine a light on a future of promise and opportunity. Member States have responded with the draft 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/70/L.1). The Agenda is a promise by leaders to all people everywhere. It is a universal, integrated and transformative vision for a better world. It is an Agenda for people, to end poverty in all its forms, an Agenda for the planet and our common home, an Agenda for shared prosperity, peace and partnership. It conveys the urgency of climate action. It is rooted in gender equality and respect for the rights of all. Above all, it pledges to leave no one behind.

The true test of commitment to the 2030 Agenda will be its implementation. We need action from everyone, everywhere. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals are our guide. They represent a to-do list for people and the planet, and a blueprint for success. To achieve those new global Goals, we will need high-level political commitment on the part of Member States. We will need a renewed global partnership.

The Millennium Development Goals showed what is possible when we work together. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda has given us a solid financing framework. Let us build on those foundations. To do better, we must do differently. The 2030 Agenda compels us to look beyond national boundaries and short-term interests and act in solidarity for the long-term. We can no longer afford to think and work in silos. Institutions will have to become fit for a grand, new purpose. The United Nations system is strongly committed to supporting Member States in that great new endeavour.

(*spoke in French*)

We must enter this new era on the right foot. I ask all Governments to adopt a solid and universal agreement on climate in Paris this December. I am happy to note that several countries are already incorporating the draft 2030 Agenda in their national development strategies, but nobody can succeed alone. All interested parties must be mobilized, as was the case when the Agenda was drawn up. We must work together with parliaments and local authorities, with cities as well as with rural areas. We must enlist businesses and their leaders. We must bring civil society into our policies, giving it the possibility of demanding accountability from us. We must listen to scientists and academics. We will also need to implicate ourselves in the data revolution. Above all, we must get down to work — and do so immediately.

(*spoke in English*)

Seventy years ago, the United Nations rose from the ashes of war. Governments agreed on a visionary Charter dedicated to "We the peoples". The draft Agenda that the Assembly is adopting today advances the goals of the Charter of the United Nations. It embodies the aspirations of people everywhere for lives of peace, security and dignity on a healthy planet. Let us today pledge to light the path to this transformative vision. I count on your strong leadership and commitment.

Co-Chair Museveni: I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

In accordance with resolution 69/244 of 29 December 2014, I now give the floor to Mr. Salil Shetty, Secretary-General of Amnesty International.

Mr. Shetty (Amnesty International): I speak today both on behalf of the global Amnesty International movement, with over 7 million members and activists, and also for many independent civil-society organizations around the world.

At the outset, I congratulate Member States for the remarkable progress that the world has seen in the form of the Millennium Development Goals, but increasingly we hear the question: Is our world spinning out of its axis? It can feel that way. Hundreds of millions of people still live in poverty. Too many people, particularly women and girls, routinely suffer violence and multiple human rights violations. Inequality, injustice, environmental destruction and corruption are a toxic combination. There is declining trust in Governments and big corporations, and young people across the world are rising in protest.

Horrific conflicts are destroying communities and countries and have fuelled the largest global refugee crisis since the Second World War. The appalling story of the three-year-old Syrian child, Alan Kurdi, whose dead body on the beach shocked the world, sums it up. We cannot hide the reality of the world we live in. And then there is the world we want — a world represented by the Sustainable Development Goals to be adopted.

We cannot blame people for being sceptical, when they see yet another summit declaration. There is a huge gap between the world we live in and the world we want, but the new Goals represent people's aspirations and rights, and they must and can be realized. I therefore suggest four practical tests to apply when realizing the Goals, so as to prove the sceptics wrong:

First, there is the ownership test. The key to success is for poor and marginalized people to be primary decision-makers at every stage. The Goals must be adequately resourced and integrated into national and local plans and budgets, and they must be implemented in line with each State's existing human rights obligations.

Secondly, there is the accountability test. People should know exactly what Governments have promised and what they have delivered — that is, the right to information. Moreover, if Governments do not deliver, people should be able to hold them to account through independent mechanisms. It is not enough anymore for Governments to say that they are legitimate because they were elected or they have a mandate. They have to be accountable to the people directly on an ongoing basis.

Thirdly, there is the non-discrimination test. Let us be clear. Leaving no one behind means challenging power structures and enforcing the rule of law. Inequality is largely the direct result of discrimination and exclusion based on gender, race, descent, religion or other status. Inequality is the consequence of the failure to protect the rights of the marginalized, indigenous peoples, minorities, migrants, persons with disabilities, children and the elderly.

Fourthly, there is the coherence test. We are all aware of countries that performed well on the Millennium Development Goals but where outrage against persistent human rights violations has led to revolutions. Why is that the case? It is because people's lives are not divided into development, environment, peace and human rights; only bureaucracies are. Coherence and consistency are therefore essential.

We cannot claim to support sustainable development while we remain reluctant to reduce the consumption of the rich or to transfer technology. We cannot preach about human rights while using mass surveillance. We cannot lecture about peace while being among the world's largest manufacturers of arms. We cannot allow our corporations to use financial and tax loopholes while railing against corruption. We cannot adopt the Sustainable Development Goals in the name of development and, at the same time, attack and arrest peaceful protesters and dissenters. We cannot launch those Goals and, in parallel, deny refugees access to a safe and legal route and a life with dignity.

The Sustainable Development Goals present a compass for decent jobs, for justice and for humankind. As members of civil society, we will stand with the poor and the marginalized at all costs, and we will hold Governments and businesses to account. Yesterday — what was last night in New York but yesterday in many parts of the world — thousands of people marched for the Goals to light the way. They called for authentic leadership from Member States, leadership with integrity and leadership from the heart. I know that Member States can live up to their hopes.

Co-Chair Rasmussen: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/70/L.1, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

In that connection, I would like to draw the Assembly's attention to the note by the Secretariat, contained in document A/70/391, regarding the programme budgetary implications of the draft resolution. Accordingly, the Fifth Committee will examine, during the main part of the session, the revised estimate arising from the draft resolution.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft resolution A/70/L.1?

Draft resolution A/70/L.1 was adopted (resolution 70/1).

Co-Chair Museveni: I would like to remind members that, in accordance with resolution 69/244 of 29 December 2014, the list of speakers was created on the basis that statements would have a time limit of up to five minutes per statement. In light of that given time frame, I would like to appeal to speakers to deliver their statements at a reasonable pace, so that interpretation into the six official United Nations languages may be provided properly.

To order to assist speakers in managing their time, a light system has been installed at the speaker's rostrum. May I appeal to all speakers for their cooperation in observing the time limits in making their statements, so that all those inscribed on the list of speakers for a given meeting can be heard at that meeting.

Finally, in order to avoid disruption for the next speaker, I would like to seek the cooperation of representatives to remain in their seats after a statement has been delivered.

Co-Chair Rasmussen: The Assembly will now hear an address by the President of the Republic of Croatia.

Ms. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, President of the Republic of Croatia, was escorted to the rostrum.

President Grabar-Kitarović: I feel privileged and proud to be the first among many speakers who will in the next three days mark the end of our momentous preparatory work on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) . Our meeting — one of the biggest ever in the history of international relations — also serves as a historic beginning and a milestone for humankind.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals before us are not just another chapter in the United Nations bureaucratic procedures. They are not just another tome in the endless archives of the Organization. They form the blueprint for our development for the next 15 years and beyond, a framework and tool for our better future. "Transforming our world" — that is not a phrase: it is an obligation for all of us.

I want to express Croatia's gratitude to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and to the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, Sam Kutesa, for their exceptional efforts and leadership in the preparatory process of the post-2015 development agenda. The credit for that remarkable achievement goes to many hard-working people, but, above all, it goes to the 193 States Members of the United Nations, which worked together tirelessly and reached an unprecedented consensus on the goals and means for our future development.

Some will say that we have too many goals and targets. I must disagree with that. Resolution 70/1 states that this is a "far-reaching and people-centred" Agenda. That means that no one is left behind, not the landlocked countries, nor the small island States, so perilously exposed to the hazards of climate change, nor those who are in dire need of water, nor those who have too much of it, nor the oceans, nor the mountain tops; nor those around the Equator, nor those on the snow-covered parts of the planet. We are all in this together: developed and underdeveloped, providers and recipients of assistance, North and South, and big and small.

The year 2015 is the turning point in our development history, when we recognize the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and we chart the road for the next 15 years. We have to be honest about the MDGs — a lot has been done, but not all of the Goals have yet been reached. That should be a warning and a lesson for the future. Our ambitions must be matched by our determination and ability to deliver. Today more than ever, we need real leadership. We need people who do not just talk about change but make change happen. It is not enough to just keep speaking out against visible and obvious problems. It is not enough to be aware or to create a vision of the future. Instead, what we need is people who will get the job done.

We are constantly exposed to well-known problems — problems with which we have been coping for many years and with limited success — and to new challenges that, not so long ago, few were able to foresee. Croatia, for example, has suddenly become engulfed by the migrant crisis, which was generated far from our borders. While we are not the final destination point, that tide of migrants is nevertheless having a profound impact on my country and the region of South-East Europe. I will speak in detail about that next week, during the general debate, but today I use it as a telling example of how interlinked and interdependent the world has become.

Our world is not just our own. We must pass it down to our children, and, right now, what are we leaving them? Therefore we have to approach all 17 Goals quickly and coherently, with determination and passion. There is more to lose than could ever be regained.

In Addis Ababa we reached a groundbreaking agreement on how to generate financing for sustainable development. That was the first step, and by the end of this week we shall take another one, but our work is far from done. The next milestone that awaits us is the Conference of the Parties in Paris. Only then, with the successful outcome of that climate summit, will we be able to say that in 2015 we truly set the framework for the SDGs.

There was no better way to start this day than to listen to the inspirational speech by His Holiness Pope Francis earlier this morning, and there is no better way to crown our Summit than to forge our commitment to implement all of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Members may rest assured that Croatia will do its part.

Let me end by stressing Sustainable Development Goal 5, on gender equality. An illustration of the fulfilment of that pivotal goal is the simple fact that the first speaker in this historic debate of ours is a woman. I promise Malala that every child will have the right to education.

I want to keep this global conversation going, but it is not enough just to meet here once a year and maintain our commitments to United Nations initiatives and national development strategies. We must take ownership of problems that are man-made and therefore require us to fix them. Without leadership, there is no way to ensure that anything will take root and be sustained. Anything less than that is just not enough.

Co-Chair Museveni: I thank the President of the Republic of Croatia for her statement.

Ms. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, President of the Republic of Croatia, was escorted from the rostrum.

Co-Chair Museveni: The Assembly will now hear an address by the President of the Republic of Finland.

Mr. Sauli Niinistö, President of the Republic of Finland, was escorted to the rostrum.

President Niinistö: It is a great honour for me to address this opening plenary Summit that just adopted resolution 70/1, containing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his tireless work in supporting the achievement of previous goals and setting new ones. I would also like to thank President Museveni and Prime Minister Rasmussen for chairing this historic event.

For 15 years, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have inspired us in our pursuit of development. Significant progress has been made towards achieving all of the Goals. Global efforts have helped to lift more than 1 billion people out of extreme poverty. To put that in perspective, it means 200 times the population of my own country, Finland, or 27 times that of Uganda.

Over 1 billion people have better possibilities today than just 15 years ago. Today, more girls can attend school than ever before. Progress has also been made in the fight against hunger and inequality. That work is ongoing. It is also important that the MDGs have kick-started progress where it has been lacking — especially in Africa, which has seen unprecedented economic growth and poverty reduction.

Such progress has not been easy or without setbacks. Not all of the Goals have been achieved. While progress has been made towards achieving all of the MDGs, more has been achieved in some cases than in others. Gender inequality and violence against women are proving to be intractable challenges. Broad progress towards gender equality has wavered. That is a challenge that we must take seriously. Investing in gender equality is a direct path towards poverty reduction, inclusive growth and prosperity. An ambitious agenda for achieving gender equality and women's rights must be matched by ambitious resources. We simply cannot solve the world's problems while keeping half of the population out of leadership positions and subordinated to the other half. To achieve that goal, we need to change the way that we act and think.

Another critical factor aside from gender equality that we cannot overlook or overcome is environmental sustainability. Addressing climate change and the provision of health, food and water requires coordinated global monitoring and the modelling of several factors — social, economic and environmental. That also requires an ambitious climate deal in Paris in December 2015. The decisions made at the Conference of the Parties to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will be the world's best last chance of reaching an agreement on cutting carbon emissions. The changing climate is affecting the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people. The migrations we are seeing in Europe this autumn are only a sad prelude to what will happen in the future if we fail to achieve environmental sustainability.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a global deal, in which each and every one of us is a participant and is therefore responsible for ensuring its success. There is no room for disputes or failure — succeed we must. The alternative is simply too costly in terms of excessive human suffering and misery. We can choose whether our legacy is one of hope or despair. It is still up to us to decide.

Co-Chair Museveni: I thank the President of the Republic of Finland for his statement.

Mr. Sauli Niinistö, President of the Republic of Finland, was escorted from the rostrum.

Co-Chair Rasmussen: The Assembly will now hear an address by the President of Turkmenistan.

Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, President of Turkmenistan, was escorted to the rostrum.

President Berdimuhamedov (*spoke in Turkmen; English text provided by the delegation*): This Summit on sustainable development is taking place in the year of the seventieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations, which gives it a special significance. Fifteen years have passed since world leaders, for the first time, determined the international agenda in the sphere of development and created an international mechanism of interaction aimed at solving the most pressing issues of the modern time.

Today, we can state with confidence that the achievement in implementing the Millennium Development Goals will serve as a solid basis for our joint actions in the coming 15 years. In addition to that, we must achieve the Goals that are still incomplete. In that context, the world community of nations needs a new global strategy, one based on present-day realities and oriented towards long-term prospects. The post-2015 development agenda, presented for adoption at this Summit, is indeed a strategy of that kind. Turkmenistan fully supports resolution 70/1 and endorses its adoption.

It is our firm belief that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development — set out in 17 global Goals and 169 targets — reflects the main approaches to the solution of the development challenges that are facing humankind today. Its main feature is the expressed determination of the international community to achieve sustainable development in a balanced and complex manner in all of its three components: economic, social and environmental.

In view of the aforementioned factors, I am convinced that the precise and concerted work of the international community in implementing the economic component of sustainable development will facilitate, in many ways, the achievement of the Goals of the new Agenda, such as universal access to cheap, reliable and modern energy supplies, stable economic growth and full employment, the creation of flexible infrastructure and the promotion of innovation. All of this will eventually enable us to provide sustainable models of production and consumption and reduce inequalities within and among countries.

There is no doubt that the achievement of the Goals is linked to the further improvement of the existing partnership mechanism. In that connection, I believe that it would be advisable to consider, at one of the forthcoming meetings of the Economic and Social Council, the establishment of a new global coordination mechanism for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. Turkmenistan stands ready to submit appropriate specific proposals. I also believe that it would be appropriate, in the context of the implementation of the new Development Goals, to invigorate the work of United Nations regional commissions in that regard.

One of the main features of the post-2015 agenda is its strong social orientation. It is not accidental that social issues stand at the forefront of the Sustainable Development Goals. Their practical implementation is linked to the enhancement of the effectiveness of the targeted and substantive work of Member States, as well as of the international structures that are directly responsible for the achievement of global objectives. It will therefore be necessary to harmonize the joint actions of countries with the work of such entities as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme in order to achieve the Goals of eliminating poverty and combating hunger, ensuring food security and improving nutrition. In that connection, we propose that at the seventieth session the General Assembly consider the possibility of convening a high-level forum on the issue of food. We express our readiness to work with all interested parties to that end.

The problems relating to ensuring a healthy way of life occupy a very important place among social issues. In that regard, building closer partnerships among Member States and the World Health Organization and other international organizations will become the foundation for the successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The new international agenda should include the issue of comprehensive, just and quality education among its top priorities. It is our profound conviction that the United Nations should actively promote the implementation process by fostering a broad international dialogue and introducing new national, regional and global programmes in the field of education. Turkmenistan is prepared to actively and constructively cooperate with appropriate United Nations bodies in the field of education. We consider UNDP, UNESCO and UNICEF to be our major partners.

Gender equality is the key element in the global development strategy. We have set a lofty goal for ourselves, that is, to achieve full gender equality and

to empower all women and girls. The fulfilment of that goal is our common duty and shared responsibility. In that connection, we welcome the initiative of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to hold a summit of world leaders on gender equality in New York on 27 September.

By adopting the Sustainable Development Goals as a programme for our joint efforts for the forthcoming 15 years, we are aware that the social and economic development of the States and peoples of the planet cannot be achieved without solving the problems of climate change and the environment. In that context, we welcome the efforts of the United Nations and its Secretary-General to identify effective measures for reducing global environmental risks. The United Nations summits and international conferences convened over the past few years have made a substantial contribution to the solution of problems relating to the protection of the world's environment.

In early December, we will have to adopt important decisions that will have momentous significance for the entire world at the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Paris. Turkmenistan stands ready to support the signing of an international agreement on climate issues and will actively advance that idea during the time left before the Conference. Furthermore, I would like to recall that our country officially presented its concept with respect to the strengthening of international environmental cooperation and has submitted a number of specific proposals at various conferences.

The initiative regarding the establishment, in cooperation with the United Nations, of a regional climate-change centre for Central Asian States is among those initiatives. Being committed to the implementation of that idea, Turkmenistan is ready to undertake, together with UNDP, steps in 2016 towards the establishment of such a centre in Ashgabat.

The year 2015 is a special year in Turkmenistan and in the life of its people. This year we mark the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 50/80 A on the international recognition of Turkmenistan's permanent neutrality. The recent past has vividly demonstrated the effectiveness of the foreign policy of neutrality pursued by our country and its correspondence to the long-term interests of the international community. That is confirmed by the fact that, on 3 June, the General Assemble adopted resolution 69/285 dedicated to Turkmenistan's permanent neutrality. In availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to express, on behalf of the people of Turkmenistan, my profound gratitude to all Member States for the firm and unwavering support of my country's neutral status.

An international forum dedicated to the issues of neutrality, peace and development will be held in the capital of Turkmenistan, in the city of Ashgabat, on 12 December. Allow me to renew, from this high podium, an invitation to the Heads of State or Government of Member States to visit our country during that period and to take part in the celebrations of Turkmenistan's permanent neutrality.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize in particular that Turkmenistan will continue to develop close international cooperation in the name of upholding the lofty ideals of peace and justice and fulfilling the goals and purposes of the United Nations Organization.

Co-Chair Rasmussen: I thank the President of Turkmenistan for his statement.

Allow me once again to remind members, as colleagues and representatives, that in accordance with resolution 69/244 of 29 December 2014, the list of speakers was created on the basis that statements will have a time limit of up to five minutes.

Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, President of Turkmenistan, was escorted from the rostrum.

Co-Chair Museveni: I want to reinforce the statement that the Co-Chair has just made about the five-minutes rule so that all the people on the list are able to speak. We do not have sanctions. These reminders are our means of implementation.

The Assembly will now hear an address by the President of the Republic of Colombia.

Mr. Juan Manuel Santos Calderón, President of the Republic of Colombia, was escorted to the rostrum.

President Santos Calderón (*spoke in Spanish*): I feel deeply honoured to participate, on behalf of the Colombian people, in this Summit, where we have convened to affirm, with unequivocal conviction and firmness, our commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1) and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals contained therein.

A few years ago, concerned with the continuity of the Millennium Development Goals, Colombia proposed

some goals that would integrate in a balanced manner the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, the social and the environmental dimensions. I am happy to report that that proposal was adopted at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and became the highest-profile outcome of the Conference.

Subsequently, we were part of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals. Our Minister for Foreign Affairs was a member of the High-level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Today, Colombia is part of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. My country commends and welcomes those Goals because we know that they are the necessary conditions for building peace, and in turn, peace in Colombia will reap unimaginable dividends, precisely in the economic, social and environmental areas. It will be a virtuous circle.

In the next 15 years, all of the countries of the world, united, must overcome our three greatest challenges: eradicating poverty in all its dimensions, combatting inequality and injustice, and tackling climate change.

The Millennium Development Goals guided us towards a more egalitarian present, and in my country we have made significant progress, which is reflected in a better quality of life for the most vulnerable Colombians. Today, for the first time in Colombia, there are more people who are part of the middle class than there are people living in poverty. Poverty, on the basis of income, has declined over the past five years by about 12 percentage points, which represents a decrease of 4.4 million in the number of Colombians living in poverty. That has made us one of the Latin American countries in which poverty has been reduced to the greatest extent in recent years. Something similar has occurred with regard to extreme poverty, where more than 2.5 million people have been able to overcome that condition. Another very important achievement is the headway we are making in reducing inequality.

There remains, of course, a great deal to be done. For that reason, the challenge before us today is to increase those achievements and make them irreversible. In our country, we have established the goal of eradicating extreme poverty over the course of a decade, i.e. by the year 2025, in addition to achieving levels of excellence in education and ensuring that all our children can receive an education.

All of those actions will take place in the context of an overarching strategy of green growth. Our commitment to the fight against climate change stems from two realities: first, we are the second most biodiverse country in the world in terms of square kilometres, but, at the same time, we are extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change, which has hit us particularly hard.

Our development plan for the next four years — and we were perhaps the first country to take such a step — was designed with the view to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals as a first step towards the irreversible eradication of poverty, and towards a development that improves the human condition and preserves the environment. I say it is a first step because what we want is for the new Agenda to be carried out and built upon by my Government and be adopted by future Governments as well.

We have already established in Colombia an inter-agency committee, with the participation of regional representatives, civil society, the private sector, academia, the media and international organizations, to coordinate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and to design the working methods and the methods for evaluation, measuring and, above all, follow-up, because if we want to make appropriate decisions, we need to have reliable indicators that show us where we are, how we can move forward and where we are falling behind. Colombia has also agreed to be part of the high-level group for the support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

We are well aware that tomorrow is not a thing of the future, but that it is built today with efforts undertaken now. That is why it gives us hope that the United Nations, in its seventieth year, has adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with which we not only identify, but to which we are fully committed. We must all contribute; we must all act and profoundly transform our countries. Colombia today affirms its response to this call for a better and more human future.

Co-Chair Museveni: I thank the President of the Republic of Colombia for his statement.

Mr. Juan Manuel Santos Calderón, President of the Republic of Colombia, was escorted from the rostrum.

Co-Chair Rasmussen: The Assembly will now hear an address by the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Mr. Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, was escorted to the rostrum.

President Al Sisi (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, allow me to convey to the Assembly, on behalf of the great people of Egypt, their greetings, respect and appreciation. The people of Egypt rose to confront and transform extremist ideologies that struck people like Malala Yousafzai and others, and they will transform them.

I would like to thank the President of the General Assembly for convening this important Summit and express my appreciation for the invaluable efforts we have all exerted throughout the last three years to formulate a new post-2015 multilateral development agenda. We are happy to see the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for the next 15 years has been adopted (resolution 70/1). In this forward-looking Agenda, we set unprecedented objectives to eradicate poverty, eliminate hunger, achieve sustainable development and provide adequate health care and education for all.

In the past few years, we have witnessed intensive international efforts to create an enabling environment for sustainable development for all. The momentum of this endeavour has reached its peak over the past few months, starting with the third International Conference on Financing for Development, which was held in Addis Ababa in July, and continuing until the final formulation of the post-2015 development agenda before us.

In this regard, I would like to reiterate the importance of including all sectors of society in the development process to which we aspire. We need fair and balanced development that is beneficial to all, and above all to women. Experience has shown again and again that women in all walks of life play a pivotal role in the political, economic and social spheres. In addition, women have a deep sense of responsibility and are the first to answer the call of their homeland.

Egypt effectively participated in all phases of drafting and formulating the Development Agenda. We have had a clear vision throughout, which we have strongly defended. We believe that any international effort to achieve sustainable development must take into consideration the policy space for developing countries and their sovereign right to adopt appropriate national economic and social programmes with development priorities that are in line with the specificities and needs of each region.

Attaining our right to development and providing decent standards of living were among the utmost priorities of the Egyptian people when they rose to reshape their future. In that vein, in March we launched the 2030 sustainable development strategy, which aims to achieve comprehensive and inclusive economic development, improve the investment environment and promote human capital. In addition, the strategy endeavours to attain social justice and provide decent jobs for all Egyptians.

The launch of our national strategy to support and develop the Egyptian economy coincided with the Egypt Economic Development Conference, held in March. The Conference witnessed wide international participation from Governments and the global business community. The great success of the Conference was further evidence that the international community considers the stability of Egypt the cornerstone for stability in the Middle East as a whole.

Realizing the pivotal role of Egypt, last month we inaugurated the new Suez Canal. This crowned the efforts of the great people of Egypt, who were able in just one year not only to dig an international navigational channel, but also to launch a gigantic development project that constitutes a major component of a new national development plan, which will enable Egypt to become a regional and international hub for trade and investment.

While we are hopeful today as we meet to adopt an ambitious Agenda that puts the development objectives of the global community on a sustainable path, we are concerned, as the tools available to implement the Agenda are not commensurate with the expected level of ambition and the magnitude of the existing challenges. The imbalance in capacities and differences in levels of development demand differentiated responsibilities and commitments for the different members of the international community. There is a historical responsibility borne by those who have the capacities towards those who do not.

In addition, the international community must deal effectively with other global challenges that hinder sustainable development, especially terrorism, which

has become an international phenomenon that is not confined to the borders of our Arab region but extends to many countries in the world. The Egyptian people, in their quest for reconstruction and development, are facing the most dangerous extremist terrorist ideology. They confront, with strength and determination, those who seek to undermine development and disrupt the aspirations of our people of a better life and a brighter future.

In conclusion, let me reaffirm that development has always been a historical right of all countries. Pursuing this right today has become an absolute must for achieving coexistence. This requires providing the necessary support to developing countries in their journey towards sustainable development and a life of dignity for their people.

Co-Chair Rasmussen: I thank the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt for his statement.

Mr. Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, was escorted from the rostrum.

Co-Chair Museveni: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Prime Minister, Minister for Finance, National Security, Grenadines and Legal Affairs of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Mr. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister, Minister for Finance, National Security, Grenadines and Legal Affairs of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, was escorted to the rostrum.

Mr. Gonsalves (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines): We have gathered together at this special assemblage of world leaders to adopt a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative goals and targets, known collectively as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to take humankind further along the journey of a global development quest, fashioned 15 years ago as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We have before us today 17 SDGs, identified separately but bound tightly in an integrated whole, to realize the mighty ambition to make lives far better, and sustainably so, for all of us who occupy Mother Earth, especially those who have had to endure the pain and anguish of indigence, poverty, vulnerability and marginalization.

We have arrived at the SDGs after much stock-taking and reflection in our conversation on the post-2015 development agenda. Solid and, in many cases, spectacular progress has been made on targets embedded in the MDGs. Still, as always, much more remains to be done, and time is not on the side of the almost 1 billion persons globally who currently live in extreme poverty. It is a damning indictment of our world civilization that one in five persons in its developing regions lives on less than $1.25 per day.

Fundamentally, faith and reason have brought us together to adopt the SDGs and to build upon the achievements of the MDGs to end poverty, promote prosperity and well-being for all, protect the environment and address climate change. But faith is not an abstraction and reason is not a fanciful construct. All the major world religions correctly advise that faith is made perfect with works and made complete with deeds, and reason must always be grounded in the real conditions of life and living. Always, too, we must apply our hearts to wisdom.

Making Mother Earth a better place for all of us to live means that our deeds must match our words. I acknowledge that the world is a complicated place awash with contradictions and that humankind is not perfect. Surely, it is still unacceptable for our global economy to be designed and elaborated in practical ways to condemn nearly a billion persons to a life of abject poverty. Clearly, the current model of a perverse and environmentally destructive global capitalism needs to undergo fundamental restructuring for the SDGs to be accomplished. Nor will they will be achieved if there is failure in SDG 17, which mandates a revitalization of the global partnership for sustainable development.

My country, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, like all small island developing States, has a special vulnerability to the deleterious effects of climate change. The poor throughout the world suffer most from the maddening acceleration of global warming. For us in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, this matter represents an existential issue of our survival, yet we contribute nought to this looming danger.

Over the past 17 years, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has made immense progress in the attainment of the MDGs touching and concerning the eradication of extreme poverty, achieving universal primary and secondary education, promoting gender equality, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases, and ensuring environmental sustainability. We commit to consolidating and building upon these accomplishments and pursuing in a focused way the

Sustainable Development Goals over the next 15 years with the help of our global partners.

It is true that the challenging global times in which we live make the achievement of the SDGs a difficult exercise, but our world civilization must rise to this awesome challenge. Failure will result in an apocalypse too horrendous to contemplate. We are at the crossroads of a historic and unprecedented opportunity to do far better for all humankind, but especially for the poor. Let us resolve to do so. Let not our hands be idle; let not our faith waver; and let not our combined reason desert us. Let us simply shape a better future, together, with love.

Co-Chair Museveni: I thank the Prime Minister, Minister for Finance, National Security, Grenadines and Legal Affairs of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for his statement.

Mr. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister, Minister for Finance, National Security, Grenadines and Legal Affairs of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, was escorted from the rostrum.

Co-Chair Rasmussen: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Prime Minister and Minister of Reform of the Republic of Cabo Verde.

Mr. José Maria Pereira Neves, Prime Minister and Minister of Reform of the Republic of Cabo Verde, was escorted to the rostrum.

Mr. Pereira Neves (Cabo Verde) (*spoke in Portuguese; English text provided by the delegation*): First of all, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to all the Heads of State and Government, the Secretary-General and all the delegations present at this historic global Summit for the debate and for the consensus that has been reached so far and for the crucially important resolution 70/1, which has been adopted for the future of humankind. Indeed, we are deciding on how to transform our world by 2030 because we wish to live in a much better world that guarantees sustainable development, prosperity and opportunity for all.

In 2000, in our common home that is the United Nations, we made the commitment to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Today, 15 years later, we can proudly say that it was worth the effort and that the world is a much better place, although not all Goals have been achieved and not all have honoured their obligations. We are once again being called upon to make new commitments, now oriented towards sustainable development, to be fulfilled by 2030. Each one of our countries is responsible for its own development, but as Pope Francis said, we will have to adopt the ethics of global citizenship and share responsibilities.

At the time of its independence in 1975, Cabo Verde was considered inviable as a country. The conditions under which it began its history as a sovereign nation were extraordinarily difficult. A small island developing State comprising a series of islands and without any traditional natural resources, Cabo Verde was characterized by drought, desertification, the scarcity of water, famines and emigration. Now, 40 years later, thanks to the determination of Cabo Verdean women and men in the islands and in the diaspora, good governance and hard work, we are a middle-income country and on track to achieving all the Millennium Development Goals and their related targets.

We have come a long way. However, we are aware of the great challenges we have to face, particularly poverty, which still affects nearly a fourth of the population, and the high unemployment rate, especially among youth and women with little professional skills. We must also deal with climate change and its effects. In 2003, with the strong participation of local authorities, civil society, enterprises and non-governmental organizations, we shared a development agenda aimed at building a modern, competitive, prosperous, fair and inclusive nation with opportunities for all and at transforming Cabo Verde into an international service centre and a logistics platform on the West African coast.

In 2014, we evaluated our implementation of that agenda, redefined its methods and timetable and committed to building a developed Cabo Verde by 2030. Our main ambition is to raise the current $3,800 per capita gross domestic product to at least $12,000, and to achieve a high human development index based on strong investments in education, health, social security, housing, land planning and management, infrastructure and water mobilization. In order to meet those objectives, we must speed up the pace of our economic growth and build a green and blue economy that is dynamic, sustainable, innovative and able to create jobs and promote progress and social well-being, a fair and inclusive economy that can eradicate poverty, fight inequality and create opportunities for all.

Small island developing States face huge obstacles to their sustainable development: difficulties in accessing

financing, high costs for transportation, energy and infrastructure and social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities. Along with lower-middle-income, African, least-developed and landlocked developing countries, they therefore deserve special attention from the international community if they are to meet all their commitments directed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Cabo Verde therefore fully supports today's resolution 70/1, "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". We will do our homework and work to build partnerships and bridges that will enable us, in a win-win scenario, to help humankind, build a developed and prosperous country and contribute to making the world a better place.

Co-Chair Rasmussen: I thank the Prime Minister and Minister of Reform of the Republic of Cabo Verde for his statement.

Mr. José Maria Pereira Neves, Prime Minister and Minister of Reform of the Republic of Cabo Verde, was escorted from the rostrum.

Co-Chair Museveni: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

Mr. Perry Gladstone Christie, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, was escorted to the rostrum.

Mr. Christie (Bahamas): We are meeting at a historic moment, as we leaders adopt resolution 70/1 on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is the hope of the people of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas that we are agreeing to a new agenda that is people-centred, planet-sensitive and inclusive in its approach to development, grounded in the common values and principles that we as the United Nations espouse.

I am pleased to be here today to revisit the themes I addressed last year — the environment, crime and security and the education and training of our young people. What is more interesting is that this is a time to be here when His Holiness Pope Francis — whom I had the honour and privilege to meet just before Christmas in 2013 — has come to speak to us. In his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, issued on 24 May, His Holiness reminds us that the Earth is our common home, a gift from God. He says that the Earth cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on it through our irresponsible use of the goods with which God has endowed it.

What more can we say? It is clear that as we adopt the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we must keep in mind our responsibility to protect the Earth, its resources and its people. We can be proud of the successes of the Millennium Development Goals that we set for ourselves way back in 2000. It goes without saying that there is much more to be done to eradicate poverty, eliminate substandard housing and infant mortality, improve gender equality and the rights of the disabled, and end racism, crime, violence and war. Those themes are at the top of the Bahamian agenda.

The Government of the Bahamas is committed to the full and effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and to building a stronger and more sustainable Bahamas. We are fully aware that we are primarily responsible for our national development, a responsibility that we have never shied away from. Recent events have shown that small countries must have the resilience, elasticity of response and institutional infrastructure needed to withstand the economic shocks that may come from unexpected directions. Our international economic partners, as well as private investors and financial institutions, all have a role in making sure that this resilience is sustained, particularly as we look towards managing the biggest issue of all — climate change.

I have come here today to renew our commitment to protecting our oceans and their species, migrating by 2030 to renewable sources of energy and making a sustained effort to educate the public on our need to do so. We will need the assistance of the international community.

The Bahamas, along with the rest of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), has long held that per capita gross domestic product should not be the sole determinant of the economic support given to our region, and that our vulnerability to economic and other exogenous shocks must also be taken into account. Indeed, the collapse of a single large investor can throw an entire country out of whack. Similarly, one hurricane can wipe out the gross domestic product of an entire country three times over. That was sadly evident in the tragic loss of life and widespread damage caused by the devastating passage of Tropical Storm Erika over our sister CARICOM island nation of Dominica at the end of August.

Those kinds of shocks have produced the high levels of indebtedness that we in CARICOM face today. They have certainly challenged our ability to achieve internationally agreed development goals. It therefore becomes increasingly important for our renewed global partnership to meaningfully address those issues in order to buttress our attempts to implement the new Development Agenda, including the SDGs. The Bahamas is pleased that the new Agenda speaks to the sustainable development challenges that we all face. It represents a firm political commitment to leaving no one behind and ensuring a sustainable future for present and future generations.

As we agree here on the SDGs and targets, we also agree to align them with national priorities and anchor them in our national plans for sustainable development. As we implement the new Agenda, we must continue to acknowledge that small island developing States (SIDS) remain a special case for sustainable development, in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities, including to the adverse effects of climate change.

It is important that the new Development Agenda will lead up to a climate treaty to be signed in Paris later this year. It is the position of SIDS that to put the world on a pathway at or below an increase of 1.5° Celsius, the Paris agreement must establish a global legally binding framework with commitments that are strong enough to reverse the current upward emission trends by 2020 and to ensure that fossil-fuel carbon dioxide emissions from the energy and industrial sectors are reduced to zero by 2050. The survival of SIDS must be the benchmark for the 2015 agreement, and developed countries must honour their financial commitments under the Copenhagen Accord of the 2009 Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and provide adequate means of implementation, including through capitalization of the Green Climate Fund.

The stage has already been set, and we have delivered a robust agenda. But our work has only just begun, and exactly how the next scenes will play out remains to be seen. What we can be certain of, however, is that our world of more than 7 billion people is watching and waiting in the hope that we will rise to the challenge of truly transforming it.

Nowhere is that challenge more important than in educating, training and preparing our young people for the future. In the area of education, my Government has committed to serving the needs of every demographic of our population, able and disabled, young and old. We recognize education's continued role in supporting efforts to achieve economic growth and eradicate poverty, as well as being a tool for socialization.

As I conclude, I would like to say that I am particularly concerned about the young people of the world. We have an obligation to them to address the joblessness and sense of hopelessness that pervade our planet. I want to bequeath to them a sustainable world, free of violence, war and crime, and a fair chance to access the economic benefits of the world. I say again that if we fail to address that, we do so at our peril. I leave the Assembly, then, with the wish that we recommit to being the shepherds and protectors of Mother Earth.

Co-Chair Museveni: I wish to thank the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas for his statement.

Mr. Perry Gladstone Christie, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, was escorted from the rostrum.

Co-Chair Rasmussen: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Ms. Angela Merkel, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, was escorted to the rostrum.

Ms. Merkel (Germany) (*spoke in German; English interpretation provided by the delegation*): In a few days' time, we in Germany will celebrate 25 years of German unity. In Europe we will celebrate the end of the Cold War. What was a divided Europe has grown together in peace and freedom. For decades, many dreamed of that, but few believed it could ever happen. Today, however, we know that nothing is obliged to remain the same, and that change — change for the better — is possible. We also know that every great plan has its seed in our minds.

At this event today, we are united by our goal of eradicating poverty by 2030, another that not so long ago was too often dismissed as a pipedream. But now, 15 years after the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals, we can see that it can in fact be achieved. We have already come halfway. Poverty has been halved, giving us every reason to believe that we will achieve the next stage too. We want to change our world, and we can. We want to give it a more humane

face, and we can. That is the goal of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1). To that end, we are adopting new goals that cover the entire spectrum of global sustainable development and that apply to all, industrial and developing countries alike. If we are to achieve them, we need a new global partnership.

In order to establish such a partnership, we first need effective structures at every level – national, regional and global. That is why Germany plans to further develop its national sustainability strategy in the light of the 2030 Agenda. As early as 2016, Germany will be one of the first States to report on its implementation of its national strategy at the high-level political forum on sustainable development. Germany also supports regional organizations and partnerships that can enable us to combine our efforts. Furthermore, we are committed to strong global structures that can help us deal with challenges that would overwhelm individual States.

The Ebola epidemic in West Africa was one such challenge. It was also a painful warning that made it abundantly clear that effective cooperation among all stakeholders, with a reformed World Health Organization at the centre, is absolutely crucial. Together with Ghana and Norway, we have asked the Secretary-General to establish a high-level panel aimed at identifying the right lessons to be learned from the epidemic and ensuring that the world will be able to respond faster and more effectively in future. Seventy years since it was founded, the United Nations, with its unique legitimacy, is still essential when it comes to resolving the issues facing humankind. But it, too, must adapt to new challenges. Germany will play an active part in the necessary reform process.

Secondly, a global partnership needs the necessary financial resources, while resilient structures will enable us to make more efficient use of those resources. The Conference on Financing for Development held in Addis Ababa in July showed how we can mobilize those resources. Germany stands by its commitment to devoting 0.7 per cent of its annual gross domestic product to development assistance, and our budget for development assistance will increase substantially over the next few years. But while State support is important, it can be only one aspect of that assistance. Private investment is also crucial to our States' development, and mobilizing it must be a policy focus for us.

In Paris at the end of this year, at the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, we want to adopt an ambitious climate agreement that will oblige all States to do more to protect the environment. The agreement would fix the framework for a path of sustainable development that can ensure that global warming remains below 2° Celsius. To achieve that, we need a shared vision of how to end carbon emissions at a global level by the end of this century. And to do that we also need the right kind of investment. It is important that the industrialized countries — and Germany, as one of them, will do its part — stick to the pledge they made in Copenhagen and, beginning in 2020, make $100 billion a year available to developing countries to help them protect the environment. That will help to create the belief that all countries in the world can develop in a climate-friendly way and that vulnerable countries in particular will get the help they need to adapt to climate change.

Peace will always be the key prerequisite for successful development. Yet millions of people — more than at any time since the Second World War — are being forced to flee war, terror and violence. Their suffering is exacerbated by their lack of prospects for the future and by the destruction of their environment. Anyone who has witnessed the suffering of those who have left their homes to seek protection and a future elsewhere, and who is aware of the challenge facing the countries that are taking them in, knows that in the end there can be only one solution, which is that we must tackle the causes of their flight and expulsion.

The 2030 Agenda provides the right framework for that. It balances the economic, environmental and social aspects of development. Each and every one of us should — indeed must — work to implement it so that people the world over can live lives of dignity. That must be our shared ambition. By agreeing on the Agenda, we are laying the groundwork for efforts to tackle the issues. Our priority now is to work for that end at every level, national, regional and global, and that is what Germany will do.

Co-Chair Rasmussen: I thank the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany for her statement.

Ms. Angela Merkel, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, was escorted from the rostrum.

Co-Chair Rasmussen: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Prime Minister of the Republic of India.

Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, was escorted to the rostrum.

Mr. Modi (India) (*spoke in Hindi; English text provided by the delegation*): That towering figure of our times, Mahatma Gandhi, once said that we must also care about the future world that we ourselves will never see. And indeed, whenever the world has risen collectively to meet its obligations to the future, humankind has made progress in the right direction and gained in strength.

Seventy years ago, when a catastrophic world war ended, the Organization represented the birth of a new hope. Today, we have gathered here once again to chart a new course for humankind. I would like to commend the Secretary-General for organizing today's very important Summit. The vision behind the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1) is lofty, and its Goals are equally comprehensive. It gives priority to problems that have persisted over the past decades and reflects our evolving understanding of social, economic and environmental issues.

It is gratifying that we all share a vision of a world without poverty. Its elimination is our number-one Goal. Some 1.3 billion people in the world today are forced to live a life of wretched poverty. But the question we face is neither merely about how to meet the needs of the poor, nor is it simply a question of their dignity or of respect for them, or of our moral responsibility. If our shared vision is of a just, peaceful and sustainable world, that can never be possible as long as poverty still exists. Eliminating it is therefore the greatest obligation we have. A great Indian thinker, Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay, placed the welfare of the poorest at the centre of his thoughts, and that is also what we see in the 2030 Agenda. It is a happy coincidence that in India we are beginning the celebration of Deen Dayal's hundredth anniversary today.

We welcome the prominence the Agenda gives to environmental goals, especially those relating to climate change and sustainable consumption, and we particularly welcome the focus on the future of island States and the specific Goal on ocean ecosystems. I have always been a proponent of the blue revolution, which encompasses the protection and development of small island States, as well as of the lawful and appropriate use of marine resources and open skies. Those three aspects are all connected.

It is a matter of great satisfaction for us in India that much of the country's development agenda is mirrored in the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. Ever since we gained independence we have nurtured the dream of eradicating poverty as well. We have chosen the path of empowering the poor, with education and the development of skills as our priorities. We are working on providing the poor with that education and those skills. We have made it our mission to achieve financial inclusion within a specific time frame. We have opened 180 million new bank accounts, which I believe is the greatest conceivable way to empower the poor, since it enables benefits to be directly transferred to them. We are also making progress with an ambitious project for giving insurance benefits to the poor. Very few people in India have the benefit of pensions, and we are working on providing them to the poor. Today even the very poorest have a new hope of being able to fight and overcome poverty. Our citizens are now confident that they will be able to realize their dreams.

All over the world, when we speak of economic development, we usually limit ourselves to discussing two sectors: the public and the private. What we have done is to focus on a new sector, which we define as the personal, represented by individual enterprise, so that we have the private, public and personal sectors. For us, that individual enterprise sector includes small enterprises, micro-finance, innovation and start-ups.

Our priorities are housing, power, water, education, health care and sanitation for all. All are essential to a life of dignity. In order to achieve them, we have created concrete initiatives and a specific time frame. The empowerment of women is an integral part of all our development programmes. We have a programme with the slogan "Save the girl child, educate the girl child" that we have taken to every household in the country.

We are trying to make our farms more productive and better connected to markets, and our farmers less vulnerable to the vagaries of nature. We are working to revive manufacturing and improve the service sector, and we are investing in infrastructure on an unprecedented scale. We are making our cities smart and sustainable and turning them into engines of progress. We are committed to a sustainable path to prosperity, and that

commitment stems from our traditions and culture. At the same time, it also demonstrates our commitment to the future. I represent a culture that regards the Earth as our mother, for there is a saying in our ancient texts that the Earth is our mother and we are her children.

Our national plans are ambitious and purposeful. Over the next seven years, we plan to build new capacity totalling 175 gigawatts of renewable energy. We are focusing on energy efficiency and carrying out afforestation on a large scale. We have imposed a carbon tax and are reforming our transportation and cleaning up our cities and rivers with a waste-to-wealth movement. I believe that ensuring the sustainable development of the one sixth of humankind that our population represents will have great consequences for the sustainable development of our beautiful planet. It is clear that such a world would be one of fewer challenges and more comprehensive hopes and aspirations, and I think that we can be confident that we would succeed.

We will share our success and resources with others. In the Indian tradition, we see the world as a family, and as our texts say, the wise regard the entire planet as one family. Today, India is fulfilling its responsibilities as a development partner in Asia and Africa, and with small island States from the Pacific to the Atlantic.

All nations have a national responsibility for sustainable development. At the same time, they also need space in which to make their own policies. We are here at the United Nations today because we all believe that international partnerships should be at the centre of our efforts, whether directed towards development or the challenges of climate change. The bedrock of our collective enterprise is the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

When we speak of climate change, there is a hint, unspoken or not, of safeguarding what we already have. But when we speak of climate justice, the responsibility of saving the poor from the vagaries of climate will help us to develop a positive attitude. It is important to focus on solutions to the challenges of climate change that can help us reach our goals. We should forge a global public partnership to harness technology, innovation and finance in order to make clean and renewable energy available to all. We must also work to effect changes in our lifestyles that can make us less energy-dependent and our consumption more sustainable. It is also vital that we launch a global education programme that can prepare future generations for the task of protecting and conserving nature.

I hope that the developed countries will meet their financial commitments in the area of development and climate change without in any way lumping them together. I also hope that the Technology Facilitation Mechanism can help make technology and innovation into effective instruments for the global public good, not just for private profit.

We have seen that distance does not insulate anyone from challenges, which can rise out of the shadows of conflict and deprivation in distant lands. The entire world is connected. We are all dependent on one another, so we must focus on the good of humankind in our international partnerships. We must also reform the United Nations, including the Security Council. That is essential if we are to ensure that our institutions have greater credibility and legitimacy. With a more broad-based representation, we can be more effective in achieving our goals.

We must work towards shaping a world where every individual can look forward to a future of security, opportunity and dignity. We have the responsibility of leaving behind a better environment for the generations to come. I believe there can be no greater cause or challenge than that. At the United Nations, we are called to rise to that challenge, employing all of our wisdom, experience, generosity, compassion, skill and technology. I am confident that we can.

In conclusion, let me express my good wishes and hopes for everyone's well-being with these lines from our ancient texts: "May all be happy, may all be healthy, may all know well-being, and may there be no sorrow of any kind".

Co-Chair Museveni: I thank the Prime Minister of India for his statement. As he represents 1.2 billion people and exceeded the time limit by 13 minutes, that equals one minute for every 100 million people.

Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, was escorted from the rostrum.

Co-Chair Rasmussen: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Prime Minister of Ireland.

Mr. Enda Kenny, Prime Minister of Ireland, was escorted to the rostrum.

Mr. Kenny (Ireland): I am honoured to address this historic Summit. Transforming our world is not only ambitious but essential. The actions of each nation are absolutely critical to how we will live together on this planet that we call home.

On our small Atlantic island, the Irish people carry the generational memory of occupation, hunger, conflict and mass emigration. As a result of our history, we have a deep commitment to addressing suffering and hardship wherever they are found. Our past has taught us that no one country can stand alone in an interconnected world. Global challenges need global responses.

The suffering of men, women and children — people just like the people of all of our countries — caught up in conflict and hardship through no fault of their own, requires a response that draws on our common humanity and our common compassion. As we meet today, we are facing humanitarian challenges on a scale not seen since the Second World War.

In Europe we find ourselves responding to a refugee crisis that has its origins not just in conflict but in abject poverty and underdevelopment. Ireland will therefore work closely with our European Union partners to save life and to give the chance of new life to people trapped in conflict and trapped in poverty.

But we have to have equal focus on tackling the causes that motivate people to flee their homes in the first place and to risk their lives for an uncertain future. That is why the agreement adopted at this Summit (resolution 70/1) is so vital to guarantee not just hope but sustainable lives and futures.

From the beginning, Ireland has been very clear on what is needed: first, an agreement galvanizing action; secondly, action to end extreme poverty, hunger and undernutrition and make better, faster progress on gender equality and the empowerment of women and young girls; and, thirdly, action to promote the critical role of good governance and the rule of law.

This what we commit to in our country: our development aid programme will continue to be central to our foreign policy; we will continue to work to achieve the United Nations 0.7 per cent target for development assistance; we will continue to focus our aid on the poorest countries, especially in Africa, as we have been doing for many years; and we will work relentlessly with our partners for the elimination of extreme hunger and malnutrition by 2030.

Let me therefore salute the vision and tireless efforts of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in leading us to this point.

Our country, Ireland, was honoured to play its part in co-facilitating intergovernmental negotiations with Kenya. I would like here to thank Ambassador Donoghue and Macharia Kamau for the extraordinary work that they did in getting 193 countries to agree to this Summit proposal.

Today's agreement, however, is the work of all the States Members of the United Nations. In the Irish language, we have a saying: "We live in the shelter of each other" — a shelter that our human family in the Middle East is now looking for urgently.

Our shared future and our shared humanity are evident not only in what we do but in the mutual recognition that we are "kind" together. At this Summit, here in New York, we have shared our vision for life and its living with our own "kind" in our own "home".

This morning, the world listened to Pope Francis. What did he say? He said that human beings take precedence over everything else. So now, united nations of the world, let us act in the interests of those people.

Co-Chair Museveni: I thank the Prime Minister of Ireland for his statement. He finished right on time; I congratulate him.

Mr. Enda Kenny, Prime Minister of Ireland, was escorted from the rostrum.

Co-Chair Museveni: I now call on the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Jamaica.

Mr. Nicholson (Jamaica): I am pleased to represent the Government and the people of Jamaica at this Summit to adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1).

The year 2015 has been pivotal and decisive for the international community. We celebrate the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations, recalling its origins as an institution that rose from the ashes of war to embody the hopes and aspirations of peoples around the world for peace and development.

From the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Sendai in March, to the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa in July, to this Summit, the States Members of the United Nations have been working together to develop solutions to some of the most vexing and complex challenges confronting our nations.

We remain hopeful that this high level of commitment to tackling multidimensional challenges through global action will continue through the end of the year, to our next meeting in Paris at the Climate Change Conference.

The 2030 Agenda was designed to be transformative and to ensure that people are placed at the centre of the development process and that our stewardship of the planet is characterized by our respect for its resources. Indeed, the Agenda has the potential, if properly funded and implemented, to change the lives of our peoples, to protect the planet and to engender prosperity in ways we are yet to realize.

Jamaica stands fully behind the 2030 Agenda. We believe that it is a worthy successor to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). For while the MDGs provided a useful tool for focusing development efforts, this Agenda will help ensure that these efforts are sustainable.

It is no coincidence that it is an Agenda for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships. These are the ingredients that will make for a world free of extreme poverty, where prosperity can be achieved and sustained.

At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, we made a clear commitment to shift the paradigm towards sustainable development and away from the fragmented approach that until then had dominated the treatment of development issues. The 2030 Agenda makes good on that commitment.

However, while we laud the breadth of the new agenda, we must also acknowledge that this is the very quality that will make it difficult for it to be effectively implemented. Significant external support will be required in many cases. In this regard, we are pleased with the commitment to a more robust and revitalized global partnership for sustainable development. We must work, therefore, to ensure that the global partnership does not fall behind. This is one lesson we have learnt from the MDGs: that deviation from our commitment to partnership can lead to underachievement.

We are conscious of the fact that implementation of the Agenda requires financing from a range of sources, inclusive of domestic, international, public and private sources, as well as capacity-building support and the transfer of appropriate technology. We are therefore pleased that the Technology Facilitation Mechanism is being launched at this Summit. Access to scientific research, technology and innovation is central to our efforts to ensure successful implementation.

As a small island developing State (SIDS) and a middle-income country, Jamaica is familiar with the range of challenges that attend both categories. We know that SIDS in particular will face numerous challenges in their implementation efforts. We welcome the support for SIDS that has been built into the Agenda, particularly in relation to the means of implementation. We look forward to working with other members of the international community to ensure that SIDS are able to make effective use of this support. We are particularly attentive to the need for capacity-building in the areas of data collection and statistical analysis, given that in the absence of these capabilities it would be difficult, if not impossible, to measure our progress. We would not wish to be left behind in the wake of the advances facilitated by the ongoing data revolution. After all, the basic premise of the Agenda is to leave no one behind.

This is but the beginning of our journey towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We must forge ahead in the knowledge that the Agenda is emblematic of the range of challenges that are currently before us. We must therefore remain committed to this Agenda and work together to tackle the challenges and embrace the opportunities. Jamaica is firmly of the view that it is only through joint action at the international level and adherence to the principles of multilateralism that we will be able to achieve our development aspirations.

Let us not be daunted by the estimated multi-trillion-dollar price tag. We must each do our part, in keeping with our respective capabilities, to ensure that succeeding generations are truly the beneficiaries of the future that we want. We owe no less to the current and future inhabitants of our planet. I have no doubt that we are equal to the task ahead.

Co-Chair Museveni: The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Jamaica exceeded the time limit by two minutes. That is not so disastrous.

I now call on the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.

Mr. Diby (Côte d'Ivoire) (*spoke in French*): Let me at the outset convey to you, Co-Chair Rasmussen and Co-Chair Museveni, the warm congratulations of His

Excellency Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, on your well-deserved appointment to chair this special United Nations Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda. The President would have very much liked to participate in this special Summit, but national obligations prevented him from attending.

I would also like to pay tribute to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, whose determination to work for a better world for all has resulted in the elaboration of the new Development Agenda that we are discussing here.

I pay tribute also to the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, the eminent personalities and the various groups of experts whose commendable efforts provided us with the outstanding resolution on the Agenda for Sustainable Development that we have just adopted (resolution 70/1).

The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015 shows that tremendous progress has been made, which is very welcome. However, as many challenges remain that have yet to be taken up, this new, more ambitious and more transformative Development Agenda takes on even greater importance and relevance.

In Côte d'Ivoire, during the 2012-2015 period, significant progress was made in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in several areas.

In the health sector, infant mortality fell sharply since 2002, from 181 to 125 per 1,000 in 2015. The maternal mortality rate dropped from 597 per 100,000 live births in 1998 to 544 in 2015. In the fight against HIV/AIDS, indicators of progress are satisfactory overall, with the prevalence rate decreasing to 1.8 per cent in 2013/2014.

This year the Government adopted a mandatory education policy. Beginning this school year, education is now compulsory and free of charge for all children aged 6 to 16. With these achievements, the challenge for our country now is to continue the efforts already undertaken in order to develop the social sectors and to increase infrastructure investment so as to promote rapid growth.

Côte d'Ivoire fully supports the new Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is based on 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 11 major themes underpinning the SDGs figure prominently in the priorities of Côte d'Ivoire. Indeed, the national development plan covering the period 2016-2020 already incorporates the SDGs, as will future plans.

In addition, Côte d'Ivoire has created an institutional and legal framework for the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development. The upcoming meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in Paris, will enable us to agree on clear, firm and binding commitments.

One of the major challenges currently facing the Ivorian Government is to work together with elected officials, civil society and the private sector for national ownership of the SDGs. My delegation would therefore invite the United Nations system and all of our development partners to support Côte d'Ivoire in this endeavour.

Co-Chair Museveni: I congratulate the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire for finishing exactly on time, which is excellent.

I now call on the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Dookeran (Trinidad and Tobago): On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, I have the honour to address the Assembly on this occasion for the adoption of the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1). I wish to applaud the efforts of all those who worked tirelessly to ensure that while this Agenda is truly global in scope, it preserves legitimacy and relevance at the regional and local levels. It is aspirational yet achievable and, though grounded in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), is more comprehensive and integrated and therefore more coherent in its application.

A few weeks ago, Trinidad and Tobago celebrated the fifty-third anniversary of its independence as a sovereign State and, exactly one week ago today, its fifty-third year as a proud Member of the United Nations. On the occasion of our independence, the first Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Eric Williams, in his national address spoke of the aspirations of a small fledgling nation on the global stage in the following terms:

> "You hope soon to be a member of the world family of nations, playing your part, however insignificant, in world affairs. You are on your own in a big world in which you are one of many nations, some small, some medium-sized, some large. You

are nobody's boss, and nobody is your boss. What use will you make of your independence?"

Fifty-three years on, as I stand here today to herald the endorsement by Trinidad and Tobago of a new global Sustainable Development Agenda, I reflect with satisfaction, and indeed with a great sense of national pride, upon our several contributions to global affairs. I am much gratified that our Founding Father would conclude that our independence has not been squandered. This ground-breaking Agenda, anchored in the principle that "no one shall be left behind", is one that should represent a triumph for all States, including the small and the marginalized. Indeed, it marks a new phase in the focus of multilateralism and represents the evolution of the United Nations as a dynamic body capable of responding to emerging needs and challenges and reflecting the diversity of its membership.

It is therefore fitting that, as the international community commemorates 70 years of the existence of the United Nations, we should also launch a new collective vision for the peoples of the world for the next 15 years. Trinidad and Tobago endorses this new global Development Agenda. This Agenda consolidates the progress made by the family of nations in the context of the MDGs and compels us all to do more to lift humanity out of extreme poverty and marginalization on a sustainable basis through enhanced international cooperation in the economic, social, environmental and cultural spheres, while promoting universal respect for human rights.

Trinidad and Tobago's implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will be guided by its own national sustainable development strategy, which seeks to implement the Sustainable Development Goals through 12 strategic priority areas over the period 2015 to 2025. Our intention is to place strong emphasis on the social and economic empowerment of our people through incentivizing sustainable growth and diversification, achieving macroeconomic stability, job growth, respecting the International Labour Organization principle of decent work and the protection of the environment.

It is our intention to achieve these aims through a progressive programme of institutional reform; the establishment of a permanent mechanism for improved dialogue among the social partners, namely, Government, labour and the private sector and other elements of civil society; and focused interventions for improvement in data collection and analysis. We recognize that the fulfilment of the Goals and targets of this Agenda will require the availability of accurate, timely, high-quality and disaggregated data. We are therefore pleased to note that the strengthening of data and statistical systems is one of the areas for which small island developing States will be prioritized for assistance through partnerships and international cooperation.

Despite its middle-income status, Trinidad and Tobago, as a small island developing State, is still grappling with many developmental challenges that are exacerbated by its size, lack of economies of scale, openness and a disproportionate dependence on a limited number of resources. These challenges result in a high degree of vulnerability to exogenous economic and environmental shocks. Although we have achieved success in implementing the majority of the Millennium Development Goals, concerns still persist in a number of areas.

Consequently, we stress the importance of the revitalization of the global partnership for development, the parameters of which are established in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. We submit that a necessary element of this revitalized partnership must be the continued recognition of the special case of small island developing States and the unique development challenges they face, and of the need to design financial tools and facilities to effectively respond to these issues. We wish to highlight that a key area of outstanding work, which should be completed as soon as possible, is the design of new and broader indices of development that complement gross domestic product per capita.

Trinidad and Tobago believes that the cornerstone of the integrated Sustainable Development Agenda should be the development of tools to measure and monitor implementation that is fit for purpose. As a responsible Member State committed unreservedly to this agenda, with tremendous faith in the ability of the multilateral system to facilitate the implementation of universal agreements, Trinidad and Tobago will continue to work with all partners towards the achievement of this critically important objective.

Trinidad and Tobago joins with other members of the international community in endorsing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Let us work together for the full and effective implementation of this landmark Agenda for the benefit of all our peoples.

Co-Chair Museveni: I now call on Mr. Abdullah Abdullah, Chief Executive Officer of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Mr. Abdullah (Afghanistan): It is a great honour for me to represent my country at this historic Summit. At the outset, allow me to commend the Co-Chairs of the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda for convening this gathering and to express my sincere appreciation to both for their skilful leadership and tireless efforts.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1) offers a compelling vision, promising peace and prosperity to the peoples of the world through global partnerships to ensure that we live and manage the resources of our planet in a sustainable manner. His Excellency President Ghani asked me to convey to Member States that the Agenda — a synthesis of past efforts, as articulated in key United Nations conferences — is an inspired leap of aspiration into the future. We therefore pay tribute to the work of several generations of thinkers and practitioners who devoted their lives to understanding and changing the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) — which, sadly, have yet to be fulfilled by some countries — focused our attention on results-oriented development, forcing Governments and their development partners to think through the linkages among policy, delivery, measuring, monitoring, accountability and having a voice in public resource mobilization and management. Yet, as President Ghani reminds us, the unfinished MDG agenda in the poorest countries and the unintended consequences of focusing on some Goals require us to pay careful attention to learning and acting on the lessons learned. One of those lessons is that, while the United Nations system does an excellent job in setting global agendas, its development machinery requires a major transformation if it is to be a catalyst for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The five pillars of the 2030 Agenda, however, require that systematic attention be paid to regional cooperation and coordination. To cite just one example, if regional barriers to trade and transit between Central and South Asia were to open up, tens of millions of people would be lifted out of poverty into a life of dignity. Even more significant, if true and meaningful cooperation in the arena of peace and security took place, the spectre cast by radicalism and terrorism over our lives would be lifted.

Afghanistan began to pursue its MDGs almost half a decade later than other Member States. According to our 2005-2015 MDG report, we have had a mix of achievements and setbacks. While the poverty rate has remained constant for several years, we have made considerable progress in primary education, gender equality and women's empowerment, and child and maternal mortality rates have been reduced.

A big part of Afghanistan's transformation decade 2015-2025 coincides with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Afghanistan will remain committed to developing strategies and policies to integrate our national development agenda with the 2030 Agenda. My Government's efforts to provide villages across the country with a minimum level of basic services in health, education, clean water and improved agriculture through a citizens' charter top the national development agenda.

Afghanistan has been making strides to become an economic hub in the region and to establish corridors that connect people, goods and resources and create opportunities for investment, development and economic growth. I am grateful to see that the Agenda attaches importance to the implementation of special and differentiated treatment for the least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements.

The adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda was a milestone. We also support interconnectedness with other relevant programmes, including the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries. We agree with the notion that responsibility for the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development lies primarily with States.

In conclusion, allow me to express Afghanistan's firm belief that in order to achieve the ambitious Goals of the new Agenda, a strong political commitment and revitalized global partnership and cooperation are essential. I would like to reaffirm our strong commitment and dedication to implementing the Agenda and our unwavering effort in fulfilling all its Goals and targets by 2030.

Co-Chair Museveni: I now call on Mr. Mark Wilson, Group Chief Executive Officer of Aviva.

Mr. Wilson (Aviva): It certainly is an honour and a privilege for me to be here and set out the role of business in achieving the global goals. I have spent much of my career in emerging and developing economies, and have sometimes seen the unacceptable face of capitalism. But I have also seen that business and capitalism have been among the great forces of liberation in history. I am crystal-clear as to why I am in business. I am in business to positively impact the lives of customers and society. Making a profit is a by-product, albeit a very important one, that allows my business to also remain sustainable.

In my company, Aviva, one of our core values is to create legacy, or, as I call it, to be a good ancestor. Aviva has been in business since 1696 because our ancestors made good long-term decisions. We do the same thing today for our 34 million customers and for the over $500 billion in assets we manage for them. The Sustainable Development Goals are a unique opportunity to create a global legacy.

I was born in New Zealand, and I now live in the United Kingdom, which is also a sporting nation. To deliver the Goals and win, just as in sport, we have to play as one team. This quest is far too big for Governments, non-governmental organizations, business, finance or regulators on their own. We have got to mobilize a global coalition the likes of which the world has never seen. Nothing less than Team Humanity.

Aviva is a founding partner of Project Everyone and has done a stellar job in planning to get the message about the Goals to everyone on the planet. Our duty now is to transform that message into action. The United Nations Global Compact, an excellent organization, has helped companies implement the Millennium Development Goals, and the work is even more important for the Sustainable Development Goals.

The question is: How do we align business and the Goals together? The Goals certainly contain some fine aspirations for the $150 billion or so of overseas development assistance, but we have to do much more to mobilize the $300 trillion of capital in the financial markets. To return to my sporting metaphor, we are currently trying to illuminate a stadium with a candle when there is a huge set of floodlights towering above the grandstand. All we need to do is to turn on that $300-trillion switch, and I believe the glow will enlighten the world.

Today I have one very simple request. I would respectfully suggest that the General Assembly target 2017 for the adoption of a resolution on sustainable finance. That resolution would set out the United Nations own road map for sustainable capital markets, which to date simply does not exist. I suggest we convene the best minds in the United Nations, around the world and in finance to work out exactly how to do this. The United Nations talks rightly of a duty to look after future generations. Our legacy will be determined by our success aligning the actions of the United Nations, its Member States, civil society, business and, indeed, finance globally. If we can do that, we will play as one team and I can assure everyone present that we will then win with the global Goals.

Co-Chair Museveni: I now call on Mr. Jim Yong Kim, President of the World Bank Group.

Mr. Kim (World Bank Group): I thank you, Sir, and the Secretary-General for the opportunity to address this historic Summit.

Together, we have reached an important milestone in adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1). Its Goals and targets represent our commitment to a more ambitious agenda for international development in the next 15 years. The Goals reflect our dream for a world in which everyone everywhere can reach their full potential. And they seek to preserve our planet — what Pope Francis has called "our common home" — for all future generations. At the World Bank Group, we pledge to use our comprehensive experience and knowledge of financing development to support the Goals. We will adapt the financial tools of the rich to serve the poor.

As we discussed two months ago in Addis Ababa, the multilateral development banks together plan to provide financial support of more than $400 billion for the first three years of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In addition, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have launched a joint initiative to strengthen tax systems in developing countries. Our aim is to assist lower-income countries to increase their tax collection by at least 2 to 4 per cent of gross domestic product. Those actions are the first essential steps towards raising the resources needed for the Sustainable Development Goals — moving from billions of dollars to the trillions needed in development assistance.

We will also bring our best global development knowledge to tackle the world's toughest challenges. We have over 50 years of development experience in helping countries grow their economies and invest in their people and insuring them against falling back into poverty. More than ever, we know what has worked and what has not when it comes to development. Working with the priorities set by developing countries, we will tackle challenges and create strategies to resolve them. Based on our experience with the Millennium Development Goals, we also know that the Sustainable Development Goals will and must change the way we work. They will ensure that we are doing all we can, as effectively and as fast as we can, to help the poor and the vulnerable.

I personally have experienced the power of setting goals and putting the poor first throughout my career. In the suburbs of Lima, where we will be holding our annual meetings of the IMF and the World Bank in just a few weeks, my organization, Partners in Health, worked to provide poor people a standard of health care available previously only in the richest countries. When I was Director of the World Health Organization HIV/AIDS Department in Geneva, we set a target of treating 3 million people infected with HIV/AIDS in less than three years. At the World Bank Group, we have committed to ending extreme poverty by 2030 and boosting shared prosperity.

In each instance, clear goals focused our wills, our minds and our actions. They made us look carefully at whether what we were actually doing helped those in need. They also made us work differently; they ensured that our strategy had a clear focus with expected outcomes. For too long, our low aspirations for the poor have often turned out to be their worst enemy. We have not been bold enough in helping them lift themselves out of poverty. The poverty of our own imagination and aspirations has prevented us from building a more just and more prosperous world, but the Sustainable Development Goals give us an Agenda that is much more ambitious than any before it.

I believe that we are up to the task. The multilateral development banks and the IMF will work closely together to substantially increase the amount of financing available to meet our high aspirations. We are building upon a record of great accomplishment. Just over the past 15 years, close to 1 billion people have lifted themselves out of extreme poverty. Such progress shows that even seemingly impossible development goals are entirely possible. We are now the very first generation in human history that can see the end of extreme poverty. We must not turn away from that challenge. We must seize the moment and use all our knowledge and grit to reach those new goals. We will succeed. Together we will make the world a more just and prosperous place for generations to come.

Co-Chair Museveni: I now call on Ms. Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund.

Ms. Lagarde (International Monetary Fund): As we say, "In unity lies strength". Two months ago in Addis Ababa, the international community put that to the test. We pledged to secure financing to make sustainable development not a goal, but a reality for all. Today we face yet another moment of truth as we come together to adopt the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our joint success will depend on decisive action and implementation at both the country and collective levels.

With regard to countries, countries can and must act at three levels: economically, socially and environmentally.

The first priority is macroeconomic stability, which is not sufficient on its own. While priorities will vary across countries, structural reforms and economic diversification will be needed. Equally, as mentioned by Mr. Kim, revenue mobilization and efficient, effective public spending, including investment, will be key.

A second priority is inclusion. I affirm that more inclusive growth is also stronger growth, so we must empower people to fulfil their potential. Improving girls' education and removing barriers to women's employment and access to finance would not only boost growth but would also tackle income inequality and poverty because — let us not forget — poverty and exclusion are sexist.

The third priority is the environment. Countries have a crucial stake in managing their natural resources efficiently and effectively. At the same time, limiting the harmful impact of economic activity on the environment can and will require targeted interventions. In short, each country must do all it can to drive its own development, but durable progress cannot be achieved in isolation — it requires the engagement of the international community.

We therefore need collective action. Why? Because in today's interconnected world, for good and for ill, cause and effect, spillovers and spillbacks travel across borders instantly and unceasingly, irrespective of the walls that are being built. And they do so at all levels: macroeconomic, where an economic shock in one country will affect all others; inclusion, where social transformations drive the winds of change; and the environment, where, with global warming, everyone reaps what others have done.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) — with its 188 members and 70-year track record of promoting global economic cooperation and stability — well understands the need for, and power of, collective action. Indeed, we are not only promising; we are also delivering. In our research, policy advice and capacity-building, we have included social and environmental dimensions that were not there, and we will continue to do so.

We are also expanding our support for developing countries in several ways. First, the poorest countries can now borrow 50 per cent more from our interest-free facilities. Secondly, we are strengthening our technical support to help countries boost domestic revenue mobilization to finance development spending. We are doing that together with the World Bank. Thirdly, we are intensifying our support for fragile and conflict-affected States. Importantly, in the long-term we are maintaining the zero interest rate on our Rapid Credit Facility loans.

The IMF is working with its member countries and international partners in the spirit of global cooperation to achieve the SDGs. We have done so, we are doing so and we will continue to do so. In 2000, they clapped with two hands. Earlier today, we clapped with two hands. The second Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dag Hammarskjöld, once said: "We are not permitted to choose the frame of our destiny, but what we put into it is ours". Likewise, the year 2030 — the SDGs target date — will one day be upon us, and what it will look like lies in our hands. Let us hope that they will clap, too.

The meeting rose at 2.20 p.m.

United Nations A/70/PV.5

General Assembly
Seventieth session

Official Records

5th plenary meeting
Friday, 25 September 2015, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Lykketoft ..... (Denmark)

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

High-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly

Agenda items 15 and 116 (*continued*)

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

United Nations Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda

The President: The Assembly will now hear an address by His Excellency Mr. Raimonds Vējonis, President of the Republic of Latvia.

Mr. Raimonds Vējonis, President of the Republic of Latvia, was escorted to the rostrum.

President Vējonis: Today, we, the world's leaders, take on a great responsibility. The peoples whom the United Nations stand to represent want to see if we are capable of transforming our world in order to overcome poverty and to ensure a decent life for all. The people we each represent at home should be informed that all countries and all stakeholders have worked together to design this truly universal agenda. The scope of current challenges is too broad and our vision is too grand to be achieved by any one country acting alone. We will help to do that by working effectively together. In one way or another, we are all on board, and we all should bring this ambitious plan into action. If left unattended, the challenges will become progressively more difficult. That is why we are here to give guidance on the way forward. The new agenda reflects evenly shared challenges for policymaking and implementation. It gives us a common destination and the comprehensive means for achieving it.

I am a biologist by training. But one does not need to be a biologist to be concerned about climate change, loss of biodiversity, air pollution and access to safe drinking water. One does not need to be a lawyer or a statesman to know that access to quality education, health care and social protection, good governance, justice and respect for human rights, will work for the benefit of all.

It is a great collective achievement that the rule of law and good governance are highlighted and recognized as universal principles in the new development Agenda. From our experience with transition, Latvia has seen that these principles are the backbone of social and economic transformation and should be entrenched in the national value systems in promoting zero tolerance for corruption. If justice systems do not work, if public administration is inefficient and lacks transparency, if a Government disregards human rights, the very foundations of a peaceful and safe society are undermined.

Modern technology and e-governance offer a unique opportunity to build trust between policymakers and civil society. In Latvia, citizens can propose initiatives to the Parliament through an online petition platform

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

15-29155 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

and, if a proposed initiative gathers enough signatures, the idea can be enacted into law.

Inclusive political processes and responsiveness to public needs are woven into the fabric of just and stable societies, particularly with respect to women and girls, who represent half of the world's population. The new Agenda provides us all with an opportunity to end the persistent inequalities, discrimination and violence that the world's women and girls confront on a daily basis. Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is not only a matter of social justice, it also contributes to economic growth and sustainable development.

In Latvia, we have seen how that works. Women become senior Government officials and reach top positions in business management. Latvia has the seventh-highest proportion of women in middle and senior management positions in the world. The empowerment of women in Latvia has occurred because the Constitution, our education system and public opinion support this goal. When men and women have equal rights and equal opportunities, societies function better. Domestically, we support gender equality with the awareness that doing so makes a stronger nation. Likewise, acknowledging gender equality as a universal value makes the United Nations stronger. With women and men having equal rights to participate and take on leadership roles at all levels, the international community will become stronger and more efficient.

Today we come to terms with a simple truth: present and future social, economic and environmental challenges that our planet is facing are interlinked. We must coordinate our efforts more fully in addressing these challenges. While each country has the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development, it should be underlined that the Sustainable Development Goals have been developed by all countries and are applicable to everyone. Every country should be held accountable for the implementation of these crucial goals. Each one of us has a decisive role to play in charting the course of history.

We are looking ahead to a time 15 years from now when we can proudly say that we have given people a real chance to rise above the poverty line and that we have done that on a global scale.

The President: I thank the President of the Republic of Latvia for his statement.

Mr. Raimonds Vējonis, President of the Republic of Latvia, was escorted from the rostrum.

The President: The Assembly will now hear an address by the President of the Republic of El Salvador.

Mr. Salvador Sánchez Cerén, President of the Republic of El Salvador, was escorted to the rostrum.

President Sánchez Cerén (*spoke in Spanish*): For the people of Salvador, today's Summit, which will define the fate of humankind, is taking place in a special year, the year of the beatification of our martyr Archbishop Óscar Arnulfo Romero y Galdámez. The beatification of his universal voice will assist in fulfilling the objectives of this international meeting. Monsignor Romero worked and gave his life for the very ideals of justice and human dignity that we are proposing today. The message of courage and peace of the blessed Romero also guides us in this Summit and give us momentum to build well-being and happiness in the world.

On behalf of the Government of El Salvador, I would like to say that we are honoured to be part of this historic moment for humankind. Today we begin a new stage where we undertake not to leave anyone behind, by adopting an Agenda for Sustainable Development of universal character (resolution 70/1). We build upon the major efforts made to achieve the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which allowed substantial progress to be made even though all goals were not met at the global level.

In El Salvador we made significant progress in achieving the MDGs, even though we faced enormous environmental and economic difficulties, droughts, earthquakes and tropical storms, such as Tropical Storm 12E, which caused damage equivalent in value to 4 per cent of our gross domestic product in 2011. In spite of all that, El Salvador has made important strides in recent years on social issues and has achieved most of the objectives set forth in the Millennium Development Goals. Since 2009, we have decided to make social issues the State's main priority by implementing public policies related to equitable socioeconomic inclusion, public safety and environmental protection. When my Government came to power, in 2014, we strengthened the State's ability to fulfil its social responsibilities and improved the system for providing environmental protection and gradually recovering damaged ecosystems. We strengthened the basis of a

system of universal social protection with an emphasis on policies and strategies that favour vulnerable groups and improving infrastructure and basic services.

We are proud to tell the world that now in El Salvador all public school students receive educational materials, uniforms, shoes and food for free. We have achieved universality in the delivery to our people of quality public health services with a human touch. In 2012, we surpassed the goal of reducing the number of households living in extreme poverty. By 2013, primary education covered 93 per cent of the applicable population, and with the commitment of thousands of young volunteers, we worked to eradicate illiteracy. El Salvador exceeded the targets relating to reducing maternal mortality, increasing households with access to safe drinking water and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. We will continue to work on the agreed development goals and the new goals we have adopted today.

Humankind is going through great transformations in all areas, and there is a growing consensus among nations that development must at all times make the human being the central focus and ultimate end of its objectives. Based on the painful experiences of war and conflict that many countries, including ours, have suffered, we must undertake with responsibility and courage a commitment to life and peacebuilding.

Life on the planet, with all its biological and cultural diversity, continues to be in danger. Mother Nature is calling us on the centuries of abuse to which we have subjected her. This Summit represents an unprecedented opportunity, as the resolution we have adopted is the first-ever to have been drafted with contributions from every country and involving the active participation of civil society. We are presented with an opportunity to decide together on a path for improving the lives of our peoples. We seize this opportunity. Experience has taught us that, to achieve essential sustainable development, the international community should address equality among countries and regions while respecting sovereignty and the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, as well as countries' vulnerabilities and particular problems.

We know that, for the fulfilment of the post-2015 Agenda and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, it is essential to build a new model of international cooperation, expand South-South cooperation and change the current structure of development financing. It is necessary that the review of the system of financing for development be based on a comprehensive and multifaceted vision in terms of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It is also imperative that developing countries be duly represented in the process of reviewing the structure of the financial system in order to increase their participation in defining and establishing international standards and in decision-making.

The Government of El Salvador is implementing a five-year development plan based on the spirit embodied in the 2000 Millennium Summit. To realize this plan, we are relying on the valuable support and assistance of friendly countries and strategic partners with which we are carrying out high-impact projects, such as the City of Women, FOMILENIO II, a clean-energy-generation programme, the City of Childhood and Adolescence, a programme entitled "A Boy, A Girl, A Computer", and much more in the areas of health, public safety, justice and social inclusion and in strengthening dialogue and national understanding, which are key to deepening democracy.

I welcome in particular the support that has contributed to sustainable development in my country. We hope that our partners will continue their invaluable contribution to ensuring that we comply with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. I am convinced that only by uniting wills, capabilities and resources can we achieve the objectives and targets set for the next 15 years.

To conclude, I wish to emphasize that the commitments that we assume today do not apply only to future generations. They are a necessity for the present generation as well. I invite the General Assembly to make the transition from words to deeds with unity, courage and hope, and without hesitation. That is what our peoples expect from us.

The President: I thank the President of the Republic of El Salvador for his statement.

Mr. Salvador Sánchez Cerén, President of the Republic of El Salvador, was escorted from the rostrum.

The President: The Assembly will now hear an address by the President of the Togolese Republic.

Mr. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, President of the Togolese Republic, was escorted to the rostrum.

President Gnassingbé (*spoke in French*): I would like to commend the important step that the great

United Nations family has made in taking on the global vision of post-2015 development as set out in resolution 70/1. Even if it has been modest and uneven, the progress that the regions concerned have been able to accomplish to date opens for us the way to deal with the new Sustainable Development Goals we set today with renewed vitality.

The first factor for success in achieving the new goals is the ownership that the people we represent at this Summit take in them. If we are to fully realize our Agenda, we need to adapt the goals to our regional and national contexts and to the diversity of our cultures. In that context, I am pleased that His Holiness Pope Francis was able to generously share with us this morning (see A/70/PV.3) his just view of the moral, human and religious requirements that we must not lose sight of in our quest for sustainable and inclusive development.

In the same vein, we must pay close attention to the urgent appeal launched in June 2015 by the Bishops of Africa and Madagascar. Through their appeal, they expressed their conviction that the development that our people earnestly aspire to cannot come at the expense of their core values, including with respect to life and family. That is why the Bishops of Africa and Madagascar offer us a more integral vision of the human person that takes into account the rich cultural heritage of Africa and the moral values to which it remains committed.

Whatever the results of our individual countries in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the most important today is probably to know how to build on the sum of the experiences of each of us in order to project ourselves resolutely into the future. In that context, I would like to express my gratitude to the Organization for involving my country, Togo, in the process of preparing the post-2015 development agenda. We are particularly pleased to have been selected, together with Belize, as a pilot country for trying out the new planning approach for integrating sustainable development. Through that initiative, Togo was able to assist in the consideration of Agenda 2022. It also strengthened its national programme for capacity-building and modernization of the State for sustainable development. Togo's experience in this field has demonstrated once again that development is based essentially on human factors. That is why we have resolved to commit for the long term to the capacity-building efforts of development actors at all levels.

I would like to recall the extent to which our fates are now linked. The effectiveness of the national development effort also depends upon the international context. It depends upon our ability to achieve the security prerequisites without which no sustainable action can be considered.

When we consider how much maritime insecurity and the major environmental risks hanging over our marine areas are costing our economies, there is only one possible conclusion: the sea and oceans are at the heart of the issues of sustainable development. Based on that observation, the African Union Commission and Togo have agreed to organize in 2016 the African Union extraordinary summit on maritime security and safety and development in Africa. I therefore take this opportunity today to call on the international community to remain mobilized so that the Lomé conference that we are actively preparing will be a success. I am deeply convinced that such success will enable us to take a qualitative leap forward in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The President: I thank the President of the Togolese Republic for his statement.

Mr. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, President of the Togolese Republic, was escorted from the rostrum.

The President: The Assembly will now hear an address by the President of the Republic of Chile.

Ms. Michelle Bachelet Jeria, President of the Republic of Chile, was escorted to the rostrum.

President Bachelet Jeria (*spoke in Spanish*): Chile is pleased to sign onto this agreement, as it will allow us to work for a better present and future for all the countries that make up the General Assembly. From now on, we will have an Agenda that addresses the great challenges of a reality that does not allow for further delay. What we do or fail to do today will determine our fate in the coming decades.

We acknowledge the enormous value of the agreement reached because it is commensurate with the demands of today's world and was drafted with the participation of civil society, which gives it greater strength. This Agenda did not come out of nowhere, nor is it naive. We have the experience of the Millennium Development Goals, which allowed us to make our

efforts converge and achieve results with respect to shared goals.

Among the various achievements reached in Latin America were the reduction of poverty by 20 percentage points, better income distribution, diminution by half of the proportion of people suffering from hunger, guaranteed access for girls to primary, secondary and higher education, and the cutting by two thirds of the number of deaths among children under 5 years.

Now, with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1), we have committed to an action plan to coordinate national, regional and global efforts. We know that, because of the magnitude and complexity of new challenges, the individual actions of countries will need to be accompanied by efforts to work together. We also know that each country can participate in the financing mechanisms that are required, in accordance with its abilities and particularities.

The point is that it is now time for action, so that our efforts are consistent with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. It is a commitment that in Chile we are undertaking with reforms that are already under way. It is not an easy path, but we are working to ensure fully paid-for quality education, true gender parity, development that is harmonious with the environment, and balanced relationships between employer and workers, so that ultimately there is a solid basis for social cohesion.

Because it is a matter of specific commitments, each country must focus its strengths on the urgent change that our times require and that this framework of working together demands. We all have a duty to perform. Accordingly, Chile will continue to meet global challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean while promoting economic integration, security and peace and programmes in favour of South-South cooperation.

We should not forget that in our region there are still about 71 million people who remain destitute and that inequality continues to be the main problem to be solved. More than 7.5 million of children under the age of 5 still suffer from chronic malnutrition, and gender gaps persist in the workplace and in political participation. We are committed, together with the United Nations community, to meeting the obligation to move forward together in the fight against hunger, injustice, inequality and pollution of the land and oceans. As is required by the Sustainable Development Agenda, we must look at the present with the responsibility of one who comes to a decisive crossroads where the survival and the development of our peoples are at stake.

Today we can take steps to build a more just world and deliver a better quality of life for millions of inhabitants of the world. But if we do not act resolutely or with the gravity that the situation requires, we will surely not have the chance to do so tomorrow. That is the extent of the challenge being faced by our nations and our leaders. It is the scale of the challenge that we are undertaking in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and which we must also face at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris.

The President: I thank the President of the Republic of Chile for her statement.

Ms. Michelle Bachelet Jeria, President of the Republic of Chile, was escorted from the rostrum.

The President: The Assembly will now hear an address by the President of the Republic of Malawi.

Mr. Arthur Peter Mutharik, President of the Republic of Malawi, was escorted to the rostrum.

President Mutharika: It is a pleasure for me and my delegation to be part of this event, at which we have adopted the post-2015 development agenda (resolution 70/1).

Malawi welcomed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) because they established the benchmark for global development policy. At the national level, Malawi implemented the MDGs through a number of medium-term development strategies that we, as a country, developed. Those medium-term development strategies mainstreamed the MDGs and ensured that their implementation was financed through the national budget framework. Therefore, the mainstreaming of the MDGs into national strategies simplified implementation of the goals because they formed part of our sector activities.

I would now like to turn to the progress that Malawi has made in achieving the MDGs. It has become clear that Malawi has managed to achieve only four of the eight MDGs — namely, reducing child mortality; combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; ensuring environmental sustainability; and developing global partnerships for development. Malawi has therefore

not been able to attain the gender-related MDGs, including eradicating extreme poverty and hunger; achieving universal primary education; promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women; and improving maternal health. Therefore, as Malawi starts implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), there will be a need to seriously take a keen interest in implementing the gender-related goals. That will, inter alia, ensure that our women are empowered and that the girl child is assured of finishing her basic education.

We learned a number of lessons during the implementation of the MDGs, including the importance of localizing international commitments, the use of "smart" indicators in measuring progress, the value of the multi-stakeholder approach in implementing development frameworks, the need for resources in implementing the MDGs, the role of interlinkages within the MDGs, the impact of emerging natural disasters on the attainment of MDGs, and the importance of sustaining progress once implementation has begun.

Malawi was part and parcel of the intergovernmental consultations that shaped the SDGs. My country was selected as one of 50 countries for initial consultations done to provide information that formed the post-2015 discussions on "the future we want". Malawi therefore does not have any problems with the SDGs negotiations outcome document, because it reflects the wishes of Malawians. I therefore have no doubt that Malawi's adopting the SDGs in their current form will serve the interests of Malawians.

My country realizes that localizing international commitments is a sure way of implementing international commitments, because they are implemented as part of sector activities. In view of that, the localization of SDGs will be an important aspect of developing the successor to the country's development strategy. Finally, as we adopt the SDGs, let us not forget to learn the lessons from the shortfalls in the implementation of the MDGs, especially for us, the developing countries.

The President: I thank the President of the Republic of Malawi for his statement.

Mr. Arthur Peter Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi, was escorted from the rostrum.

The President: The Assembly will now hear an address by the President of the Republic of Guyana.

Mr. David Arthur Granger, President of the Republic of Guyana, was escorted to the rostrum.

President Granger: The Cooperative Republic of Guyana is honoured to participate in this worldwide observance of the seventieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. This event coincides, happily, with the adoption of a worldwide, transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1). These twin events provide the opportunity for us to reaffirm both our resolve to respect the founding principles of the United Nations and our commitment to the renewal of our promise to pursue development for all.

We embark upon this new Agenda by building on the achievements and experiences of many countries across the globe, including my own, in implementing the Millennium Development Goals. We are conscious that in doing so the imperatives of strong and effective monitoring, the full integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions and early and concrete actions to give effect to the global partnership for development will be given particular relevance.

Guyana is conscious of the fact that achieving the sustainable development goals for all will require high levels of political commitment. This Summit is only a start. We must continue to work with one another as States in the international community and to work together with our own people within our countries. Unity of effort is essential to confront the difficult but necessary choices that must be made to realize the goal of sustainable development. Vigilance will be required from us as leaders, and from all stakeholders.

A reformed and revitalized United Nations development system and intergovernmental machinery, including the Economic and Social Council and the High-level Political Forum, will be needed to exercise core functions in such a manner as to provide impetus, enable accountability and actualize course correction. There must be policy integration to address competing priorities and demands. We count on the United Nations system for effective support and guidance in that regard.

The Cooperative Republic of Guyana is of the view that the same spirit of understanding and cooperation that attended the preparation of this Agenda should mark its implementation. Success will require nothing less. We have laid the basis for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The means of implementation outlined in the Agenda, in conjunction with the provisions of

the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, will be critical to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets. We recognize that all sources of financing will be required to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. All countries, developed and developing, will be required to play positive roles in accordance with their diverse circumstances, situations and resources.

Progress in implementing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda can provide a strong impetus to efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda. That is especially pertinent to such service deliverables as implementing a new global social compact for the delivery of social protection and essential public services for all, increasing international cooperation in tax matters, ensuring debt sustainability, intensifying efforts to end hunger and malnutrition, bridging critical infrastructure gaps, operationalizing the technology facilitation mechanism, and using the Economic and Social Council forum for the follow-up to the third International Conference on Financing for Development.

Guyana recognizes the links between peace, security and the rule of law and the successful implementation of this Agenda. Guyana calls on all nations to eschew recourse to the threat or use of force in the resolution of controversies. Guyana urges that friendship and understanding should underpin relations between States in consonance with the principles of international law and in a renewed spirit of global solidarity and partnership.

At the national level, Guyana is richer for the many lessons of our collective development experience. Not the least has been our long embrace of the primacy of the pursuit of a path of sustainable development, including the effective integration of its three dimensions at all levels. Guyana will work tirelessly, in accordance with our national plans and aspirations, to build a modern, peaceful and prosperous nation in which all citizens share equally in the benefits of development.

Guyana's policy is to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and to promote opportunities for all. Education, which is Sustainable Development Goal 4, is the mother of the other goals. It is the gateway to reducing inequality. It is the gateway to empowering all women and girls, which is Goal 5. It will boost national efforts in the fight against poverty — Goal 1. Its achievement is necessary to end hunger. Over the next five years, Guyana will have as one of its foremost priorities of national development the provision of inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all.

It lies within our collective will to address the defining challenges of our time successfully. The challenges include eliminating trafficking in persons; eradicating poverty; promoting more inclusive, just and peaceful societies; and combating climate change. We must harness a spirit of understanding and cooperation to ensure the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development within the next 15 years. The Cooperative Republic of Guyana declares today its full support for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We commit to working untiringly for its full realization. We are determined to achieve all the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets — they represent the finest aspirations of humankind. The world we want for future generations is within our grasp. In this great global family, the United Nations, no woman, no child, no one should be left behind.

The President: I thank the President of the Republic of Guyana for his statement.

Mr. David Arthur Granger, President of the Republic of Guyana, was escorted from the rostrum.

The President: The Assembly will now hear an address by His Excellency Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces of the Republic of Kenya.

Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces of the Republic of Kenya, was escorted to the rostrum.

President Kenyatta: It is a great honour and pleasure to join the General Assembly on this historic day as we convene to adopt a new development Agenda. Let me commend the Member States and every stakeholder, all of whom patiently engaged in the negotiations, whose culmination is a visionary, transformative and ambitious blueprint. Let me also thank the Assembly for the confidence shown in Kenya by bestowing on my country the honour of co-chairing the intergovernmental process that led to this outcome. I believe that the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (resolution 70/1) will galvanize global action towards ending poverty in all its forms.

Fifteen years ago, at the Millennium Summit, we adopted the Millennium Declaration (resolution 55/2). Through that Declaration, we adopted the Millennium

Development Goals (MDGs), through which we undertook to exert all efforts to reduce extreme poverty by the year 2015. Since then, we have made significant progress in poverty reduction. Many of the MDGs have been achieved. Between 1990 and 2002, for example, overall incomes rose, and there was a sharp decline in the number of people living in extreme poverty, as well as in child mortality rates. Life expectancy rose from age 63 to nearly 65. An additional 8 per cent of the developing world's people received access to water, while an additional 15 per cent acquired access to improved sanitation services. Similarly, over 100 million people have been uplifted from slums.

We know that today more girls than ever before are going to school at all levels. More women are joining the ranks of formal employment. I also note that the spread of HIV/AIDS is being reversed: new infections fell by 40 per cent between the years 2000 and 2013. Important milestones have also been reached in the fight against malaria and tuberculosis. Similarly, efforts to manage the global environment have been accelerated, with significant reductions reported in ozone-depleting substances.

However, we must acknowledge that progress has been uneven across the world and across the Goals. There remain huge disparities between and within countries. Rural poverty remains unacceptably high within countries, while urban poverty is extensive and underreported via traditional indicators. In some parts of sub-Saharan Africa, child and maternal mortality are rising. Even where progress has taken place, consumption patterns and their impact on the environment are unsustainable. The world continues to be under threat from the negative impacts of global warming and climate change. Millions of people worldwide still lack access to quality education and health care.

In Kenya, we have made tremendous progress over the past decade. For instance, since the adoption of free universal primary education in the year 2003, gross enrolment rates have risen from 88 per cent to 96 per cent. Even more significantly, we have now achieved gender parity in the primary school cycle, while the transition from primary to secondary and tertiary levels have greatly improved.

My Government has also introduced several measures to promote gender mainstreaming. For example, by legislation and Government policy, one third of all public appointments and legislative positions are reserved for women. The Government has also established the Women Enterprise Fund and the Uwezo Fund to advance the cause of women's entrepreneurship. My country has also reserved at least 30 per cent of all positions in the public sector for women, youth and people living with disabilities. We continue to promote appropriate skills to increase employment for women and youths.

In the health sector, we have eliminated user charges for maternity services in our public health facilities. My Government is also providing free antiretroviral drugs and voluntary counselling and testing services, all part of a sustained national campaign against sexually transmitted diseases. That mix of preventive and curative measures has ensured important gains in the health of our nation. The rate of immunization for children under 1 year old, for instance, has risen to 85 per cent, while HIV/AIDS infections have fallen to 6 per cent.

The lessons learned from the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals show that much can be achieved when the world finds focus around shared common goals. The new Agenda we have adopted today is an ambitious plan for collective action to transform the fate of humankind by lifting all people out of poverty while remaining in harmony with our planet.

Many of the Goals in the post-2015 development Agenda strongly resonate with Kenya's development aspirations as articulated in our development blueprint, which we call Vision 2030. We are convinced that, under this Agenda, a world free from poverty and hunger is achievable within the next 15 years. We also believe that a world in which development is in harmony with nature is also possible. The vision on the environment is therefore correctly rooted in the Agenda as a prerequisite for moving our societies towards sustainable development.

The goals of this Agenda are extremely ambitious. They therefore require an equally ambitious means of implementation. Without adequate resources from diverse places and institutions, the Agenda we have adopted today might never be realized. Of course, we recognize that the primary responsibility for development in our countries shall first and foremost lie with us. However, resources from our development partners will also be critical. I urge them to substantially increase the resources that are available to developing countries as official development assistance. In addition, we should all address issues that have in the

past impeded developing countries from channelling adequate resources to the needs of the poor. I believe that addressing debt sustainability and trade reforms will go a long away towards addressing these needs. After all, trade is at least as good a means of ending poverty as aid.

As I conclude my statement, I reiterate once again that the success of today's Agenda in the years ahead will require new ideas and courage. The effective mobilization of resources in the context of a global partnership will be critical in that effort. I am therefore happy to announce that, to that end, Kenya will host the second high-level meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation in November 2016. I am happy to welcome all Member States to that important meeting. I believe it will provide us with an important forum to exchange ideas on how to move this Agenda forward. Finally, I join the global community in adopting this important Agenda.

The President: I thank the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces of the Republic of Kenya for his statement.

Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta, President and Commander-inChief of the Defence Forces of the Republic of Kenya, was escorted from rostrum.

The President: The Assembly will now hear an address by the President of the Republic of Liberia.

Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia, was escorted to the rostrum.

President Johnson-Sirleaf: Our new global development Agenda (resolution 70/1) — entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" — is the result of the most consultative process in history. Consultations and negotiations spanned many years, starting with the 2010 Summit to adopt the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and proceeding to the 2012 Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which crafted a vision of the future we want. Our Sustainable Development Goals and targets were formulated following protracted negotiations in 2013 and 2014. This year's negotiations culminated in the consensus document we adopted this morning.

I commend Member States, regional groupings, civil society organizations, private-sector actors and all stakeholders who worked tirelessly to create this new framework. Given the complex nature of the intergovernmental negotiations, we offer deserving commendation to the outgoing President of the General Assembly and to the co-facilitators, the Permanent Representatives of Kenya and Ireland, who skilfully navigated the process. We pay tribute to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his leadership in guiding the process, and we appreciate the effective work of his Special Adviser. In 2013, I was honoured to serve, along with Prime Minister David Cameron of the United Kingdom and President Susilu Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia, as one of the three co-Chairs of the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Agenda. We worked with 27 panellists from around the world to set the vision and policy framework for a bold, strategic and universal agenda. The membership of the Panel included representatives from every segment of society, including Governments, academia, civil society organizations and the private sector.

Fifteen years ago, the MDGs were launched with a vision to build a better world. At the Millennium Summit in September 2000, we set time-bound targets to address critical challenges. The world has made significant progress in achieving many of those targets. Average overall incomes have increased, extreme poverty has declined, child mortality rates have fallen, life expectancy has risen and more people in the developing world have access to improved sanitation services.

But progress has been far from uniform across the world and across the Goals. Huge gaps remain across and within countries. Poverty remains the greatest challenge, especially in rural areas. Urban poverty is also extensive and underreported by traditional indicators. We are grateful that the new development Agenda calls our attention to the unfinished business of the MDGs while broadening the vision to incorporate new challenges. That is why every segment of the global community contributed to making this Agenda a reality.

Co-Chair Museveni took the Chair.

In Africa in 2013, the African Union established a high-level committee on the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals, which I was honoured to chair. The committee launched a consultative process that culminated in the adoption of a common African position that reflected the priorities of our continent. I am very pleased to acknowledge today that our priorities are substantially integrated into both the post-

2015 Development Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Together those documents demand a universal commitment to the shared vision of eradicating poverty and hunger, safeguarding our planet and opening the door to prosperity for the benefit of people everywhere. Peaceful societies and revitalized global partnerships are essential requirements for the achievement of those aspirations.

We must pursue single-mindedly the achievement of the Goals enshrined in this Agenda. It can be done. Our world has never been richer, more integrated or better educated than now. Therefore, with the resources at our disposal and the creative power of all, we can lift those at the margins of progress — women and youth — and achieve success. Dignity for all, peaceful societies all around the globe and providing every human being with the means to live to his or her full potential are well within our means. We cannot afford to fail. And we must truly leave no one behind.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda provides the toolkit for countries, especially poor and post-conflict countries, to galvanize the resources needed to implement the new Agenda. It challenges all of us to take concrete measures that will transform our commitments into practical solutions that improve the lives of our people. Based on that common framework, with sustainability at its core, we will move forward in crafting national development policies and strategies, but with the recognition that, while the goals and targets are universal in nature, every country will have to develop its own priorities towards achieving the global ambition of a new world of peace and prosperity in a safe planet.

Given its scope and level of ambition, the post-2015 development Agenda will require more effective, strengthened and improved modes of development cooperation to support its implementation. We call for a renewed and revitalized global partnership among nations, underpinned by North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, with specific attention on fair trade, taxation and technology, while combating illicit financial flows and terrorism. At the core of our actions, we must affirm our commitment to transparency, accountability and mutual respect. Those are the fundamentals of genuine partnerships.

The successful implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda for Sustainable Development will depend largely upon the concrete measures taken at the subnational, national, regional and global levels. We must set in motion national processes that will guide our efforts to domesticate and integrate the new Agenda into local content that will engender national ownership in the implementation process. A strong follow-up and review mechanism will enhance effective implementation and ensure that citizens have the means to assess progress. We must also embark upon a data revolution geared towards developing capacities for development planning, monitoring and evaluation.

Mr. Tommo Monthe (Cameroon), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Today we made history by adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to replace the Millennium Development Goals. In so doing, we have assumed the challenge and responsibility to deliver to future generations, in the next 15 years, a world free of poverty and hunger and a more secure planet for everyone. This must be our legacy.

The President: I thank the President of the Republic of Liberia for her statement.

Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia, was escorted from the rostrum.

The Acting President: The Assembly will now hear an address by His Excellency Mr. Anote Tong, President, Head of Government and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kiribati.

Mr. Anote Tong, President, Head of Government and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kiribati, was escorted to the rostrum.

President Tong: It is an honour and a privilege for me to address this historic Summit on behalf of the Government and the people of Kiribati. Let me greet the Assembly formally: "*Na bane ni mauri*". Today indeed marks a truly momentous occasion as we, representatives of our peoples from all corners of the globe, gather to adopt an ambitious Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1) for our respective peoples for the next 15 years.

At the outset, I wish to commend the sterling leadership and commitment of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in steering our family of nations forward and in pushing our ambition to achieve sustainable development for all. I also wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the co-Chairs on their appointment to chair this historic Summit. And I commend the new President of the General Assembly on his assumption of the presidency of the Assembly at its seventieth

session. I also would like to commend his predecessor, the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, His Excellency Mr. Sam Kutesa, for his leadership in guiding the massive task of shaping the Agenda before us today. I would like to especially commend the co-facilitators, Ambassador Kamau and Ambassador Donoghue, for their outstanding leadership in chairing the lengthy work of the Open Working Group on intergovernmental negotiations, indeed a massive, inclusive and consultative process that lasted more than two years. Allow me to congratulate them on a job well done.

This is truly a major multilateral achievement as we celebrate the seventieth year of the United Nations. As we celebrate, we should also reflect and ensure that this premier global body remains responsive to the needs of the most fragile and vulnerable of people in its membership. That is the real litmus test for the Organization's relevance and effectiveness. The new Agenda we have adopted at this Summit presents an agenda of hope for humankind, one underpinned by the overall goal of eliminating poverty and the key theme of leaving no one behind — an agenda that we hope can ensure that no one is left behind.

Some critics were already delivering a verdict even before the adoption of this new Agenda, saying that there were just too many goals and targets. There will always be critics, and who knows that better than we do as politicians. But the truth of the matter is that these Goals reflect the realities and the multitude of challenges facing humankind across the globe today. If we were to ask the question, "What are the root causes of the violent conflicts around the globe that are causing the senseless loss of tens of thousands of lives, the massive movement of refugees now experienced in Europe, the emergence of fundamentalist terrorist groups around the world, and the change in our climate system?", many of the answers to those questions could be found in the lack of attention to the Goals in front of us in this new Agenda. These Goals are not new. Most, if not all, are in our national development plans and strategies. What is new is the global call for the international community and national Governments to do things differently to effect the transformational changes necessary to achieve what we politicians promise our people every time before elections. That is crucial in an increasingly interdependent world where the decisions made and actions done in one country will have rippling effects elsewhere in other countries. That is why we come to the Assembly every year to share our national agendas so that we can shape the global agenda in a positive way as an agenda that would be meaningful to all.

Let me therefore focus on the one key global goal for us in this Agenda: Goal 13, the need to take urgent action to combat the effects of climate change, which is particularly important for the most vulnerable countries such as mine, which are now already experiencing the impact of climate change. I do so because it poses an existential challenge for my people, and this goal is one that, if not given urgent attention now, has the potential to negate all efforts towards sustainable development, but it is also one that will challenge the survival of generations to come.

Over the years, I have come here to this forum to explain the vulnerability of our people. I do not want to repeat what I have said year after year. This is the last time I want to do it. But the point I want to share is that things are happening. Storm patterns are changing; weather patterns are changing. We are already experiencing extreme storm events that we never experienced in the past.

The real test of our commitment to the new Agenda will be the United Nations Climate Change Conference. The new sustainable development agenda will mean nothing if the Paris summit in December does not come up, not with an ambitious, but with what I believe to be a meaningful, legally binding agreement that can address the urgent challenge for those of us on the front lines of the climate change challenge. We must step up our national and collective efforts to meaningfully reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. We must urge major greenhouse gas emitters to do their part.

We must also call with urgency on our development partners and on philanthropy from the private sector to assist those on the front line of the climate calamity to deal with the impacts of climate change and sea-level rise now being experienced in our countries to assist in our efforts to prepare our people for a very uncertain future. Let us call on those with the ability to assist and who have a contribution to make to join in the global dialogue — but, more important, in the call for urgent action to address this major challenge.

Business as usual can no longer be considered to be a path forward. Let us not limit ourselves to working within the shackles and boundaries of our comfort zones. The challenge of climate change continues to demand that we think outside the bounds of conventional

thinking, because these are extraordinary challenges that call for extraordinary and unconventional solutions. We need to take bold steps, even if we are not sure they are the right ones. If necessary, we can improvise on the way. But whatever we do, we cannot afford to be paralysed into inaction simply because of the apparent impossibility of the challenge confronting us. Time is running out, and the current alternatives are not acceptable.

It is most gratifying to note that an emerging glimmer of hope exists — that a shift in the wind in the dialogue on climate change has occurred. This morning we heard His Holiness Pope Francis speak on climate change. We welcome the messages and expressions of commitment from a growing number of quarters, from more capitals around the globe and from civil society, which recognize that climate change poses a major challenge and requires urgent action. We from the front-line nations welcome that most gratifying shift as a very positive development in the right direction. At last, the international community has heard our messages and our shared stories on the plight of our peoples.

But hearing our story and recognizing that climate change is a major challenge is not enough. We need to act on the problem with urgency. We may be on the front line now, but so will the millions of others in the times ahead. As we endorse our new Sustainable Development Agenda and celebrate the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations family, we must believe that no Member nation should have to plan on its own for a time when its people will no longer have a country and a place that they can call home. Merely saying and acknowledging that climate change is a challenge simply will not do. What is important is our response to the problem as a global community of moral human beings. The real test of the effectiveness and relevance of the new Agenda for Sustainable Development and of the United Nations family as we celebrate its seventieth anniversary is in ensuring that no one is left behind. Yet my people and those on the front line of climate change face the real possibility of being left behind.

I therefore call on this Summit and on the General Assembly at its seventieth session to lend their support to the voice of the most vulnerable. We call on the international community to establish an ambitious and meaningful, legally binding agreement that can begin to heal our one shared home and planet. I also call on this Summit to join our voice so as to ensure that the agreement in Paris will include a special mechanism to fast-track urgent action for those countries on the front line of climate change that need such action now. It is no longer about who is to blame or what caused the problem, it is about urgently working together, within our capabilities, as good global citizens, to urgently address the major challenge to all peoples and to our one and only home: our planet Earth.

Let me conclude by sharing with the Assembly our traditional Kiribati blessings of "Te mauri, te raoi ao te tabomoa", which means "May health, peace and prosperity be with us all".

The Acting President: On behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to thank the President of the Republic Kiribati for his statement.

Mr. Anote Tong, President, Head of Government and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kiribati, was escorted from the rostrum.

The Acting President: The Assembly will now hear an address by the President of the Republic of Panama.

Mr. Juan Carlos Varela Rodríguez, President of the Republic of Panama, was escorted to the rostrum.

President Varela Rodríguez (*spoke in Spanish*): On behalf of the people and the Government of the Republic of Panama, I have come to affirm our strong commitment to the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which we have adopted at this Summit (resolution 70/1). It is dedicated to uniting our efforts and aligning our national priorities with global ones in order to ensure domestic tranquillity, welfare and prosperity for present and future generations.

Above and beyond any differences that may arise between countries, Governments must seek the same criteria and work together to tackle the problems facing us, both within and beyond our borders. That was the spirit of the seventh Summit of the Americas, held in April this year in Panama, where the slogan was "Prosperity with equity". The 35 countries of the continent sent a clear message that we stand ready to work together for a better region and a better world. A strong global alliance among countries, bringing together Governments, civil society and citizens, is the only way to transform the lives of millions of people who still face social exclusion. We believe in that vision, and in Panama we have set the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as the official guidelines

for our Government, while ensuring the resources for its effective implementation.

Our Government plan is in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is backed up by a strategic plan for public investment that will enable us to move steadily towards achieving the 17 Goals of the new Agenda. In order to eradicate poverty, we have strengthened and expanded the coverage of the programmes of our social protection system, which currently serves 20 per cent of the population. Access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation is a priority. That is why our Administration has allocated about 30 per cent of total public investment for 2015-2019 to achieving that objective.

In drawing up the Goals we have been thinking of future generations. For them, education is the key. In our country we are allocating the resources needed for full secondary-school coverage. That will benefit young people, in particular young people at social risk and school dropouts, so that they can return to the educational system and the job market. Our economy is still growing at approximately 6 per cent per year, and we are now generating more better-paying jobs. And we are very close to becoming the first country in the region to be declared free of child labour.

The efficient use of State resources will be key to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals. That is why in our country we have just held a national dialogue for the effective coordination of the public health system, which will make it more effective and will improve health benefits. New technologies and databases must be used constructively. They can be used to measure progress in achieving the Goals. In Panama we decided to use them in a national census on preventive health to determine the state of health of our people.

We also want to replace the shantytowns in our country. We want to make sure that all our citizens have decent housing. That is a goal that we hope to achieve by 2020, jointly with the private sector, via a project called "Roofs of Hope".

We also need to provide the environmental departments of our countries enough human and economic resources for them to protect the planet. In Panama our goal is to restore 50 per cent of the deforested area over the next 20 years, as well as to protect our oceans. Next year, the Panama Canal expansion project will be completed, which will not only give us more resources to achieve our objectives but will also serve the world and global trade.

The Sustainable Develoment Goals offer us a 2030 Development Agenda from the perspective of solidarity among human beings. It is now up to us to respond to the legitimate hope of a world with opportunities for all and with sustainable development. Panama will do its part, and our country will participate actively in that noble undertaking, which is the main challenge facing humankind. It is only by meeting the challenge of sustainable development that we will achieve peace.

I believe that all the members of the Government, as temporary administrators of the goods and resources of our peoples, have a great responsibility to ensure that politics is understood as serving others, and that public funds are used honestly, transparently and fairly to improve the quality of life of our citizens.

In conclusion, I want to confirm my commitment to move my country forward over the five years of my term so that we can achieve the 17 Goals. I appeal to Heads of State and all who share this responsibility to administer public funds honestly and transparently so that 15 years from now we can look back and feel that together we did our best to ensure that our countries attain the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Acting President: I thank the President of the Republic of Panama for his statement.

Mr. Juan Carlos Varela Rodríguez, President of the Republic of Panama, was escorted from the rostrum.

The Acting President: The Assembly will now hear an address by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Mr. Muhammadu Buhari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, was escorted to the rostrum.

President Buhari: The Declaration that we have adopted today (see resolution 70/1) testifies to the urgency of and the need for action by all of us. It is not for want of commitment that previous initiatives failed or could not be fully realized. What seemed to be lacking in the past were political will and the requisite global partnerships to pursue and implement the programmes to which we committed ourselves.

Global consensus is needed. We agreed to deliver as one and to leave no one behind. That promise was kept. We have agreed to create viable partnerships and

to adopt the means of implementation for the Goals and targets of a global Sustainable Development agenda in all its three dimensions: the economic, the social and the environmental.

The post-2015 development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), together with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which we adopted in July 2015, offer us a unique opportunity to address the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). They also provide the basis for a new set of global development priorities to usher in a peaceful and prosperous world.

Since 2000 we have witnessed a number of areas in which progress has been made in meeting our commitments. Respect for human rights and accountability for gross violations are now at the forefront of most major international initiatives. National efforts have been exerted to meet the MDGs and rescue millions of people from the clutches of extreme poverty and want. Illnesses such as polio, tuberculosis and malaria are being systematically attacked and eliminated from our countries. Maternal and child mortality, as well as mother-to-child transmission of diseases such as HIV/AIDS, are high on our national agendas. Through a concerted effort by the world community, Ebola in West Africa was contained, then overcome.

The prospect of wars and conflicts between and among States has for the first time in human memory been considerably reduced. Threats to international peace and security are now caused more by non-State actors whose terrorist groups pose a more deadly threat by drawing national armed forces into neighbouring conflicts. The war against terror is now the most significant effort that we are all called upon to prosecute, in unison and with renewed determination and vigour.

We must not lose sight of or diminish the fact that poverty poses a serious threat to global development. If we are truly committed to leave no one behind, we must then translate rhetoric into action and fight poverty on a global scale. Illiteracy, hunger and diseases are associated with evils that go hand in hand with poverty. We must exert all efforts to eliminate those ills from our midst by 2030, as the Declaration loudly proclaims. The bottom billion that have neither a safety net nor social protection need to be rescued from their perpetual state of hopelessness, fear and indignity.

Now that it has fallen on our shoulders to discharge that responsibility, we should do so with the enthusiasm and commitment worthy of the cause. We must create viable partnerships that bring together national, regional and global actors with shared objectives to carry them forward. We must also create an enabling environment for executing this global Agenda by developing the relevant framework for working with different types of partners and constituencies, one that recognizes the contributions of civil society, religious and cultural bodies, the private sector, academia and, most important, Government.

Just as the success of the MDGs was underpinned by national ownership, the post-2015 and the SDG frameworks must also be guided by national priorities and ownership. Domestic resource mobilization, supplemented by improved terms of trade between industrial and developing economies, should drive the implementation process in both streams. The facilitation of remittances by migrant and overseas workers, as well as efficient tax collection, are needed as complementary sources of financing for development.

Mindful of that, I wish to reiterate Nigeria's commitment to the pursuit of transparent and accountable fiscal and economic management. We are taking measures to improve and streamline the internal generation of revenue and to plug all loopholes that have led to illicit capital flight from Nigeria. We are also putting in place mechanisms to prevent oil theft and other criminal practices that are detrimental to our economy. We are taking concrete steps to address environmental challenges, especially in cleaning up the greatest damage to ecosystems caused by oil spillage, land erosion, desertification and floods. The threat posed by climate change is real and present in our country.

It is my hope that as we embark on this renewed journey we will match our words with deeds, so that when the General Assembly meets in 2030, the people of all races and creeds will say that we have kept faith with each other.

The Acting President: I thank the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for his statement.

Mr. Muhammadu Buhari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, was escorted from the rostrum.

The Acting President: The Assembly will now hear an address by the President of the Republic of Palau.

Mr. Tommy Esang Remengesau, Jr., President of the Republic of Palau, was escorted to the rostrum.

President Remengesau: It is my great honour to join everyone here today to congratulate the Secretary-General and, for that matter, the global community on the adoption of the post-2015 Agenda. It is a privilege to thank the General Assembly for that signal achievement. It is fitting that we take this uniquely important moment to recognize the hard work and dedication of literally thousands of people from all nations that has allowed us to gather here today. By virtue of that work by so many, we now have a strong set of imperatives for the transformational change that our peoples and our countries need in order to safeguard our planet for the future of our children.

It is also with deep gratitude and humbleness that I recognize and acknowledge the leadership of His Holiness Pope Francis for his inspirational remarks (see A/70/PV.4) and for his extraordinary encyclical *Laudato Si'*. That profoundly important document laments the careless use of our planet's resources leading to environmental degradation and global warming. That encyclical on climate change, which calls for swift and unified global action, is an inspiration to us all and is already beginning to change hearts and minds and to focus the world's attention on the most vulnerable among us and on our mother Earth.

The encyclical clearly and eloquently states a fundamental truth: what we do, or do not do, about climate change today will affect the lives of countless people for many generations to come. His Holiness speaks passionately of the impacts of climate change on the suffering of the poor. That also is fundamental. The people who contribute least to this crisis are suffering the most from it. That realization must be part of the solution that we will develop in Paris at the end of the year. There is still time to tackle climate change, the greatest challenge of our times. Human suffering, and the suffering of all creation, will deepen with each moment of delay. At the same time, all countries and all peoples have a role to play in building a more sustainable future.

The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) helped drive global progress in developing countries. Most assuredly, they helped to reduce extreme poverty, improve health, enhance environmental sustainability and address gender equality. Today we have before us the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The new SDGs are critically important as the next great step forward beyond the MDGs. These SDGs must raise the bar of our global commitment to finally address the root causes of poverty and environmental degradation.

As we all know, we have enormous challenges ahead. Over 1 billion people on this fragile planet still live on less than $1.25 a day. Almost 1 billion people do not have enough to feed themselves or their families. Climate change is already wreaking havoc in my home, the Pacific. Our nations are at present feeling the effects from rising seas, storm surges, droughts, floods and ocean acidification, which together threaten our water and food supplies, our marine biodiversity and our very livelihoods.

Those enormous challenges are not limited to my region. As our new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1) recognizes, there is no region on Earth, no country and no people who are not suffering — and who will not continue to suffer — until we take effective and long-lasting global action. Like the Millennium Development Goals, the Sustainable Development Goals are but a blueprint for change and regeneration. The hard work lies ahead for the global community, rich and poor nations alike, to make those Goals real across the broad expanses of our planet and for all of our citizens.

In Palau, we are working hard to do our part and to take those next steps that will define our future. We have committed to provide 20 per cent of our energy through renewable resources by 2020, and are already three quarters of the way there. We have also committed to become carbon-neutral by 2050. In that context, we have finalized a comprehensive climate change policy and will soon submit our intended, nationally determined contribution.

We are working hard to protect our ocean — the foundation of our culture and the backbone of our livelihoods. We have created a comprehensive network of near-shore marine protected areas and are in the process of establishing the Palau national marine sanctuary, which will close 80 per cent of our exclusive economic zone — an area the size of France — to commercial fishing.

Representing a small island developing nation, I must particularly congratulate and thank the Assembly

for the Sustainable Development Goal on the oceans. That SDG is enormously important to all of us. It will pave the way towards a healthier global marine environment through a well-connected system of marine protected areas; the restoration of fish stocks and the elimination of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing will be addressed.

While small nations like mine are taking many actions on our own to stem the tide of environmental collapse, it is only through a true global partnership for sustainable development, with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all peoples, that we can implement our new list of Sustainable Development Goals with the speed and scale necessary to respond to our urgent situation. To move forward, we will need funding and technical support to implement, monitor and strengthen our solutions. And we will need that support sooner rather than later.

Global partnership is our only hope. Only through real partnerships at every level can we implement the SDGs in our generation to indeed transform the world. Only through partnerships can we hope to realize the promise of the future we want — a future we need for our children and all the generations to come.

God bless our mother Earth.

The Acting President: I thank the President of the Republic of Palau for his statement.

The Assembly will now hear an address by the Constitutional President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

President Evo Morales Ayma, Constitutional President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, was escorted to the rostrum.

President Morales Ayma (*spoke in Spanish*): I greet all the heads of all delegations, representing their countries. In the name of the Bolivian people, I note and pay tribute to the decision of the General Assembly to discuss and adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1).

First, we have to assess what was done with the Millennium Development Goals and ask ourselves why we were unable to achieve them. I would like to say that we have to debate thoroughly what are the causes of poverty, what are the causes of inequality in the world, why is it that in some countries, some regions, poverty — extreme poverty — continues to grow. For that I would like to quickly explain that the policies of the capitalist system do not solve the current problems of life and of humankind.

Wealth is concentrated not in just a few hands but in just a few States. The most developed countries are where the greatest wealth of the humankind is concentrated, but at the same time capitalism allows that a few citizens can gather the wealth of various countries and millions and millions of human beings. Capitalism uses the environment for its own purposes by plundering natural resources and through environmental degradation. Capitalism uses the economy in the service of politics. The capitalist economy operates through a dictatorship of the financial system that favours the banks and robs the peoples. Capitalism places peoples in extreme poverty.

War is the biggest business of capitalism. It cannot survive without producing violence, invading peoples and plundering strategic resources. The capitalist system underwrites the industry of death — weapons production, military expenditure, military bases and the extraterritorial commerce in logistical and security systems. Today there are more wars in the world than in the past, and the destructive capacity of weapons and technology is unparalleled in the history of humankind. Furthermore, more people than ever have been displaced by war, and military expenditures have risen to astronomical levels. Never before have we seen so much spent on destroying people in such a short time. For example, the NATO annual budget exceeds $1 trillion. As a result of imperialist wars, today oceans have been converted into cemeteries of refugees perishing at sea. Countries have become trenches of war.

If war fuels the economy of a capitalist system, it feeds off a sham. Today wars are being manufactured and leaders demonized. War criminalizes progressive States having an anti-capitalist orientation. Worse, today this imperiousness creates real armies of religious fanatics that cannot be controlled, such as the army of the Islamic State.

To survive, the capitalist system transfers its crises to peoples, sometimes by lowering the prices of oil and other raw materials, sometimes by invading States through supposedly just wars, and at other times by imposing economic and financial models to plunder their natural resources through global financial institutions. In the capitalist model, the major political

and economic decisions are concentrated in the hands of bankers, businessmen and industrialists, and democracy concludes with the vote.

The President returned to the Chair.

To change the social situation in Bolivia, we worked politically to free ourselves from imperialist domination and economically to free ourselves from the neoliberal model. In doing so, we promoted a comprehensive policy of living well, under the guidance and wisdom of our social movements, because the Bolivian people are organized in social movements.

It is very important for us to regain ownership of our natural resources. We have nationalized our natural resources, and there is one important thing to keep in mind: before nationalization and modification of the hydrocarbons law, the oil revenue was just $300 million a year. Last year we reached $5.6 billion in oil revenues. Those present here can therefore imagine under a neoliberal model how much money they stole from us, how much money was taken by the international oil companies who were masters of our natural resource.

Thanks to the Bolivian people, Bolivia is building a truly plurinational State, where all people have the same rights and duties. Earlier, the indigenous people were completely excluded. Now we have a classless State. We had Governments that were imposed on us; now it is the people who are in power in Bolivia.

As for participation in the national economy, earlier we were falsely led to believe that the private sector would solve Bolivia's economic problems and that the distribution of wealth would lead to equality with dignity, deepening democracy. In Bolivia economic policies are debated and approved with the social movements. For the first time, we are beginning to give added value to our natural resources.

We have a patriotic agenda. In 2025, Bolivia will celebrate the bicentennial of its founding, with an agenda to deliver ourselves fully from domination. But I also want to say how important it is to democratize and redistribute the national economy. Before, our small economy was being privatized and exported. Today, the economy remains in Bolivia and is being socialized and democratized, through transfers and actions or through goods and revenues, for both grandparents and children.

Fortunately, thanks to those policies, in just a short period of time we have reduced extreme poverty from about 40 per cent to 17 per cent, and I would like to say that Bolivia has achieved most of the Millennium Development Goals. If our economic resources had remained in the private sector, that would have never been possible.

Lastly, I would like to say that, if we wish to end poverty by 2030 and achieve development for our people,, we have to look at how we can put an end to the values of the capitalist system — selfishness, individualism and consumerism. All of us want to eradicate poverty. In order to do so, as elected officials in our countries, we have the obligation to put an end to the capitalist system. Thus we will be able to end poverty.

The President: I thank the President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia for his statement.

Mr. Evo Morales Ayma, President of the Plurinational State of Boliva, was escorted from the rostrum.

The President: The Assembly will now hear an address by the President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

Mr. Truong Tan Sang, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, was escorted to the rostrum.

President Truong Tan Sang (*spoke in Vietnamese; English interpretation provided by delegation*): On behalf of the State and the people of Viet Nam, I extend my warmest greetings to the co-Chairs, the Secretary-General and fellow leaders at this Summit.

At the dawn of the millennium, 15 years ago, we adopted a political declaration, the United Nations Millennium Declaration (resolution 55/2), and endorsed the actionable Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), expressing a strong commitment to our people's development. Today the economy has witnessed varied progress, yet the implementation of the MDGs has produced encouraging results throughout the world, helping to change the lives of hundreds of millions of people. Nevertheless, more than 1 billion people still live in extreme poverty, and progress on several MDGs fall short of our expectations. Challenges such as hunger, poverty, epidemics, social injustice, the depletion of natural resources, environmental degradation, climate change, conflicts, crises, escalating violence, instability and tension in many corners of the world are serious threats to peace, security and sustainable development.

In that context, we gather here today in order to express our strongest commitment to, and support for,

a truly transformational global development agenda. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its 17 Goals and 169 targets, presents a new strategic fusion that reflects the aspirations of humankind to live in a world of peace, safety, equality and justice, a world where development is green, clean and sustainable. The Agenda creates a framework and sets the direction for all nations to collectively respond to common challenges in the three pillars: the economic, the social and the environmental.

Viet Nam wholeheartedly supports the 2030 Agenda, and we pledge to do our level best to ensure its successful implementation. We will mobilize all the necessary resources. We will engage all ministries, sectors, localities and organizations in our communities. Three points require our particular attention.

First, peace and development are intertwined. We could never expect the MDGs to be achieved in circumstances of war, conflict and instability. Only by ensuring peace and stability can we pool the required resources and foster the partnership necessary for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Therefore, maintaining peace and security, on the basis of respect for international law, is a precondition for the successful implementation of the SDGs. It is incumbent upon all of us to find peaceful and satisfactory solutions to conflicts and disputes, exercise restraint, refrain from the use or threat of force and strengthen cooperation among all countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

Secondly, having achieved most MDGs ahead of schedule, Viet Nam believes that the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires strong political will and the full and effective mobilization of domestic resources. It is necessary to envision sustainable development as a long-term, people-centred final goal and to mainstream the SDGs into all national programmes and strategies, while taking into account the specific conditions and circumstances of each country. As part of its own national sustainable development strategy for the period 2011-2020, Viet Nam is committed to accelerating economic restructuring and transforming the growth model, in order to enhance growth and economic efficiency, ensure social equality, preserve natural resources, protect the environment and respond to climate change.

Thirdly, it is imperative to strengthen the global partnership for sustainable development. The United Nations can and should play the critical coordinating role, along with other international organizations. Developed countries are called upon to take the lead in supporting developing countries in implementing the SDGs, particularly through capacity-building, technology transfer, trade facilitation and access to financial resources.

On behalf of the Vietnamese people, I would like to thank all partners, countries and international organizations for supporting Viet Nam in its social and economic development and MDG implementation over the past years. We look forward to further cooperation and assistance during the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Viet Nam is working with other States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to build an ASEAN community by the end of 2015, and a South-East Asian nation of peace, stability, cooperation and prosperity. In order to ensure an environment conducive to sustainable development, Viet Nam is working with ASEAN and its partners in common efforts to maintain and consolidate peace and security in the region, including ensuring maritime safety and security and the freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea — the main artery connecting ASEAN with other regions. It is our consistent policy that all disputes in the South China Sea can be resolved only through peaceful means — on the basis of respect for international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982, the effective and full implementation of the Declaration of the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea and the early conclusion of the code of conduct for the South China Sea.

I believe that, with strong conviction and political will, we will be successful in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in the interests of all the peoples of the world, for a safer and better life of the children of today and tomorrow. Viet Nam pledges to be an active and responsible partner in that common endeavour, in order to make sure that no country or individual is left behind.

The President: I thank the President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for his statement.

Mr. Truong Tan Sang, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, was escorted from the rostrum.

The President: The Assembly will now hear and address by the President of Hungary.

Mr. János Áder, President of the Republic of Hungary, was escorted to the rostrum.

President Áder (*spoke in Hungarian; English interpretation provided by delegation*): It has been over 40 years since the publication of the Club of Rome's report *The Limits to Growth*. For over 40 years, we have known that development, which we had once thought was without limits, is very difficult to sustain, and it has taken more than 40 years for us to finally agree on sustainable development goals. That happened today, and we owe our gratitude to everyone who worked on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1).

However, over the course of the past 40 years, the world has also changed considerably. Today's world hardly resembles the world of 40 years ago. Over the past 40 years, the population of the world has doubled, and greenhouse-gas emissions have also doubled. Over the past 40 years, the quantity of fresh water per capita has decreased by half, and, during those same 40 years, we have witnessed an annual loss of agricultural land, the area of which represents the size of Belgium. Over the past 40 years, some of the key freshwater sources of protein have decreased by 75 per cent.

Today we have adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with Goal 13 dealing with climate change. Nevertheless, the new Agenda leaves a number of other issues unresolved. Much work therefore remains to be done on the road to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris in December. Accordingly, we can safely say that the road we are facing is a long one, while the time we have available is extremely short — a far cry from 40 years. Within a few days, there will only be 40 days left until we will have to reach an agreement in Paris. People often cite an East-African saying, to the effect that we have not inherited the Earth from our ancestors to do with it whatever we want; we have borrowed it from our children. However, considering the intended nationally determined contributions to the Paris Conference to date, if we do not come to our senses, we will wind up destroying and squandering the inheritance of our children.

Clearly, we have adopted impressive Sustainable Development Goals in other areas. If the climate objectives are not met, the consequences of that failure will render all the other Sustainable Development Goals hopeless. If we are not successful in Paris in reaching an agreement, if we continue to emit unacceptable levels of carbon dioxide, if we continue to further overheat our planet and if we continue to increase the adverse impacts we cause, then the ideas of sustainable agricultural food production and sustainable water management will remain only dreams. It is not terribly difficult to understand that if we continue to reduce the amount of agricultural land, we are also going to reduce the amount of food that can be produced. If we continue to reduce the natural circulation of water — known as the hydrological cycle — then natural disasters will become increasingly frequent and impactful. If we continue to see the current rate of acidification of the seas and oceans, we will endanger the primary food source of over 1 billion people.

What would the consequences of such a scenario be? Rather than decrease, poverty would grow. It would also entail an increase in social inequality. As a result, social tensions would also increase, which would not be conducive to good governance, security or peace— in fact, such a scenario would render them impossible. In the end, that could lead to wars and mass migrations on a scale much greater than that which we are currently witnessing.

This morning, His Holiness Pope Francis said the following in this very Hall:

> "[men are] not authorized to abuse [creation], much less destroy it" (*A/70/PV.3, p. 3*).

He also went on to quote the words of his predecessor, Pope Paul VI, which were uttered in this Hall 50 years ago: "The real peril is in man" (*A/PV.1347, para. 45*). All of us stood up and gave Pope Francis a standing ovation for his words. We also gave a standing ovation for the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

One year ago, at the Climate Summit here on 23 September 2014, we all stood and clapped after hearing the words of Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner, who came from Marshall Islands and asked us all to agree, as soon as possible, on the climate objectives — because if we did not, she and her fellow citizens would be forced to move away from Marshall Islands. If the enthusiasm of that moment or today's is genuine, if the applause back then and now was not only for the moment, then I would ask all Member States to reconsider their positions before the Conference in Paris. Please think what we stand to lose if we do not come to a tangible agreement at the end of the year in Paris. We do not even have

two times 40 days to conclude an agreement that will substantially influence the future of our children.

The President: I thank the President of the Republic of Hungary for his statement.

Mr. János Áder, President of the Republic of Hungary, was escorted from the rostrum.

The President: The Assembly will now hear an address by the President of Mongolia.

Mr. Tsakhia Elbegdorj, President of Mongolia, was escorted to the rostrum.

President Elbegdorj: At the dawn of the new century we adopted — and have since then implemented — the Millennium Development Goals. We have achieved many targets, but have failed to achieve others. By and large, however, the global community passed the test. We have all learned lessons and made huge strides.

This time, the international community has produced a history-making document contained in resolution 70/1. The entire family of the United Nations agreed on the road map towards sustainable development. Now humankind has a truly universal, ambitious action plan for the next 15 years. Never before in human history has such a universal and unanimous agreement been reached. We agreed on urgent targets, on a broad range of economic and social challenges and on environmental exigencies. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to all those who made it possible. I thank Member States for their tireless work, sleepless nights and firm commitment. They have shouldered a mountain of responsibilities to produce the truly historic 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for humankind. Now the responsibility is on us, the Member States, to ensure its full implementation.

Mongolia's commitment to international cooperation remains strong. The success of the Sustainable Development Goals will mainly depend on a revitalized global partnership, an active engagement on the part of Governments, as well as the resilience of and synergy with civil society and the private sector.

It is widely recognized that each country has a primary responsibility for its own development, but, at the same time, the world community should not forget that there are many countries, including the land-locked developing countries, that are still in need of a helping hand.

One thing is certain: every nation State should always strive for good governance, the strict rule of law and a sound human rights policy. In order to put the Sustainable Development Goals into practice, we need to have a robust, inclusive and open mechanism and policies, as outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development. We must have reliable implementing, monitoring and accountability regulations and institutions in place.

Justice and fairness is the order of the day. Every nation and Government must actively contribute to the global good with its own capabilities and differentiated responsibility. We must also reach a global agreement on climate change later this year in Paris.

We need to mobilize our full potential to achieve the primary purpose of the founding of the United Nations, namely, the promotion of peace, respect for human rights, and inclusive economic and social development.

I believe that, in the twenty-first century, the United Nations will remain at the heart of our humanity.

The President: I thank the President of Mongolia for his statement.

Mr. Tsakhia Elbegdorj, President of Mongolia, was escorted from the rostrum.

The President: The Assembly will now hear an address by His Majesty Don Felipe VI, King of the Kingdom of Spain.

His Majesty Don Felipe VI, King of the Kingdom of Spain, was escorted to the rostrum.

King Don Felipe VI (*spoke in Spanish*): It is again a pleasure and a great honour to speak to the United Nations on behalf of Spain. The Heads of Member States of the United Nations have come here to commit — on behalf of our peoples — to transform the world in the next 15 years and to rid it of the extreme poverty and hunger that still afflict a large portion of humankind. We will make a change for everyone, everywhere. That is our conviction and our commitment.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1), the agenda for change that we adopted today, is the result of a negotiation among equals. It reflects the voices of millions of citizens. They are the ones who told us what they expect from us. They did so on behalf of a new generation of children who will turn 15 in 2030. We are here to solemnly promise those

children that each and every one of them will be able to fully develop their abilities without the hindrance of discrimination.

Standing before them, we are committed to create sustainable wealth, while giving back to nature what we haven take from her, because we are only her guests and temporary administrators. It is therefore essential that the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held in Paris this coming December be a success and achieve results that rise to the challenge we face.

His Holiness Pope Francis, who has been so close to us today, teaches us in his encyclical letter *Laudato Si'* that the interdependence that is typical of our time requires us to think in terms of a common project. To think of a single world requires us to act as one.

In that spirit, we have already taken decisive steps that give us hope, thanks to the Millennium Agenda initiated 15 years ago. However, development is not and has never been a uniform process. Achieving it is not guaranteed. Wars like the ongoing one in Syria, natural disasters such as the earthquake in Nepal and epidemics such as Ebola can undo decades of progress achieved by developing countries, and they demand of us our solidarity and sustained attention.

Even in the more developed countries, the experience of the recent global crises has exposed the fragility of many situations that we had thought were more stable. Above all, it has alerted us to the fact that no one is immune to the weaknesses of a growth model that we must now repair and improve, while at the same time preserving its strengths and eliminating its excesses.

The globalization of finance, technology and information will have to be accompanied by the globalization of solidarity, knowledge, equity, liberty and human dignity.

The Agenda adopted today is therefore a universal one, and we are all responsible for ensuring its successful completion. Spain will contribute to that goal. My country has already vigorously supported the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through the MDG Development Goals Fund. Our contribution was in fact the largest made by any single country towards achieving the MDGs.

At present, we are firmly committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and our commitment is illustrated by our actions. Working with the United Nations Development Programme, we have established the first Sustainable Development Goals Fund, which is already promoting projects in over 17 countries.

Our cooperation policy is also aligned with the 2030 Agenda, and official development assistance is one of its pillars. Together with the European Union, we are committed to the goal of providing 0.7 per cent of our gross domestic product by 2030 — with an emphasis on the least developed countries. We cannot forget, however, that a great deal of poverty and marginalization occurs in middle-income countries. Accordingly, we will continue to devote part of our attention and resources to them.

It is essential to achieve equitable development, genuine and effective enjoyment of rights and equal opportunities for all. That requires creating opportunities both in education — hence the importance of the catalysts of knowledge, innovation and technology — and in job creation, particularly among young people, an area in which Spain is particularly sensitive.

We must also ensure equal opportunities for women in parity with men. They deserve the same roles as men in the workplace, in the exercise of their political and social rights and in society in general.

The idea that we are all part of a global community ruled by law and oriented towards the common good was put forward by some of the best Spanish minds at the beginning of modern times, including Father Francisco de Vitoria, one of the founders of international law. Seventy years ago, when the Organization was established, the world took a giant step towards fulfilling that dream. Then as now, the goal that unites us is to create a community of citizens conscious of their esponsibilities in relation to their neighbours and the planet that they inhabit. We, the people of Spain of twenty-first century, believe in that dream, and we would like to make it a reality. It is our conviction. It is our commitment.

The President: I thank His Majesty Don Felipe VI, King of the Kingdom of Spain, for his statement.

His Majesty Don Felipe VI, King of the Kingdom of Spain, was escorted from the rostrum.

The President: The Assembly will now hear an address by the President of the Swiss Federation.

Ms. Simonetta Sommaruga, President of the Swiss Federation, was escorted to the rostrum.

President Sommaruga (*spoke in French*): In the framework of a unique process, 193 States have come here today and agreed on an ambitious agenda for a sustainable world. They were not, however, alone in putting that process into place. International civil society, the private sector, scientists as well as experts from the United Nations all played an active role. Consultations were held in over 100 countries, and more than 7 million people took part in a survey that gave them an opportunity to voice their needs and priorities. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1) is therefore an Agenda of the people, by the people and for the people. We all know the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is not a magic wand that will simply wish away all the world's problems. However, I firmly believe that the Agenda is an extremely promising approach to resolving many of the world's problems.

For Switzerland, the following points became clear from the very beginning of the process. We could no longer remain satisfied with solely promoting development in the southern hemisphere, while what is known as the developed world carried on with business as usual. We could not lose sight of the environment when we think about social and economic development. And development could be sustainable without respect for human rights and the protection of the rule of law.

People are at the heart of the Goals enshrined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We will not be able to honour that often-cited pledge unless we adhere to our own principle of leaving no one behind, unless we pay special attention to the most marginalized and most vulnerable, unless we counter growing injustices with a culture of equity, unless we preserve our natural resources, and unless we provide young people with future job prospects. Switzerland has accordingly focused its efforts on the following goals.

First, we have concentrated on the issue of water. That extends beyond access to drinking water and sanitation infrastructure. Thanks to the Millennium Development Goals, today more than twice the number of people than before — over 4.2 billion individuals — have access to piped drinking water.

Secondly, Switzerland has also advocated, in an ad hoc fashion, in favour of an ambitious goal in the area of gender equality. Over the past 15 years, gender equality has been successfully achieved, to a large extent, among primary-school teachers. We must now achieve gender equality in all areas of society. In most countries, a woman's salary still represents only 60 to 75 per cent of a man's average salary; and although the percentage of women members of national Parliaments has almost doubled over the past 20 years, women still represent only 22 per cent of all members of Parliaments in the world.

Thirdly, Switzerland has also committed itself to the goal of promoting inclusive societies fully dedicated to peace in order to strengthen the rule of law, access to justice, respect for human rights and the fight against violence and corruption.

Fourthly, Switzerland has undertaken a goal specific to health care that addresses non-communicable diseases, sexually transmitted diseases, reproductive health and related rights. Non-communicable diseases are responsible for over 60 per cent of all deaths — a phenomenon that is particularly present in low- and middle-income countries — even though a large portion of non-communicable diseases can be prevented.

Those goals must be implemented. For that reason, we have strongly advocated for an effective follow-up mechanism and review. We firmly believe that the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development is well positioned to carry out that function.

In Switzerland we have a system of direct democracy, with very wide-ranging rights relating to political self-determination. Our society and our citizens are used to having a say in the political process. Over the past 200 years, more than one third of all referendums held worldwide have taken place in Switzerland. For us, therefore, it was no challenge to include — from the very beginning — representatives of our civil society, the private sector and the scientific and political fields in the process of defining our priorities for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, we will proceed with the same approach: while politicians will be left with the responsibility for guiding the process, citizens will be given the opportunity to have their voices heard.

As we all know, one of the biggest challenges in this globalized era consists in establishing a closer relationship and greater trust between citizens and the political sphere and its institutions. That is why the

participatory process in the development of the 2030 Agenda was so important. Now, let us get to work together and for the common good.

The President: I thank the President of the Swiss Federation for her statement.

Ms. Simonetta Sommaruga, President of the Swiss Federation, was escorted from the rostrum.

The President: The Assembly will now hear an address by the President of the Republic of Honduras.

Mr. Juan Orlando Hernández Alvarado, President of the Republic of Honduras, was escorted to the rostrum.

President Hernández Alvarado (*spoke in Spanish*): Honduras has come to the General Assembly today to commit its political will and efforts to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1). One year ago in this very Hall, I spoke of the tragic situation of migrants, and in particular that of unaccompanied minors, from the northern triangle of Central America flowing towards the United States (see A/69/PV.7). They are people driven out by violence and grinding poverty, the result of drug trafficking in the North and the operations of cartels and international organized crime in the region. On that occasion, I proposed a plan, the Alliance for Prosperity in the Northern Triangle, intended to improve security and create opportunities and genuine development along our immigration route. That joint initiative of the Governments of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras was welcomed by President Obama and his Administration and by many members of the United States House of Representatives and Senate. Currently, a generous proposal in support of that plan for prosperity of Central America is under consideration in the United States Congress.

We have made real progress in the areas of public safety and job opportunities. We can also show real improvements in combating drug trafficking and insecurity. That can be clearly seen in the reduction in the murder rate and in drug trafficking-related crimes. We have dramatically reduced drug trafficking throughout our territory. We have destroyed clandestine infrastructure, such as aeroplane landing strips and drug laboratories. We have apprehended and prosecuted many drug traffickers. We have extradited powerful drug lords and seized their ill-gotten gains. Nevertheless, we will not rest until we have completely rooted out the drug scourge from our territory, which has done so much harm to our peoples and region and, indeed, all humankind.

On creating opportunities and combating poverty, we have developed the Vida Mejor programme with the goal of improving the living conditions of poorer people. Evidence of the programme's effectiveness can be seen every day in Honduras. Through the Vida Mejor programme and the legal framework of the social protection system, recently adopted by our National Congress, we are working on the Sustainable Development Goals in the areas of income, education, health, quality of life, family housing and, in particular, in generating productive employment for women.

Today, we realize that that is the most effective way of channelling resources and programmes to fight poverty. As we had anticipated, the fewer drugs there are, the more security there is; and the more development there is, the more opportunities there are, leading to a reduction in the migration flowing from Honduras into other countries. It is not just Honduras that holds that view; that fact is also affirmed by the migration authorities of Mexico and the United States.

However, despite those gains, we still face challenges. We must do more to reduce poverty, infant mortality and maternal mortality and to maintain disease control, particularly the control of HIV/AIDS. Those challenges constitute a social, economic, political and, above all, moral debt that cannot be ignored and cannot be delayed in its repayment. The progress we have made, on which we place such high hopes, has not been easy.

In addition to the fight against drug trafficking and poverty, we must also deal with the challenging effects of climate change in Honduras. Our country is one of the three most vulnerable countries in the world, as noted in a risk index prepared by an organization called German Watch. I repeat: the third most vulnerable country in the world. That vulnerability became evident with the onset of the El Niño phenomenon. For the second consecutive year, drought, the most severe recorded since the middle of the twentieth century, has generated critical risks to food security for the Honduran people and a genuine national emergency. Such an emergency is a serious obstacle in our fight against poverty, and it increases the risk of tragically exacerbating the undesirable migration processes.

What does the El Niño climate-change phenomenon represent for Honduras? Most of our harvests have

been lost, especially food crops. We are losing our livestock, and in many communities, water is becoming increasingly scarce. More than 250,000 Honduran families have been left in a critical situation. Our Government is assisting the affected families with our own resources and with those that we hope will be generously contributed by organizations and friendly Governments. In a major effort, we are determined to dedicate nearly one third of our territory, or more than 3 million hectares, to be protected areas so as to defend the health of planet Earth and to preserve our environmental heritage. Today, as a result of climate change, a severe plague of bark weevils has led to the loss of 112,000 hectares of pine forests — almost 7 per cent of the total coniferous forests in the country. Because of El Niño, and climate change in general, today we must radically change our production and energy matrices, as we need to immediately implement our national master plan for managing water, soils and forests. We must do that now, not next year or within the next decade, but immediately, right now.

From this rostrum, one can look out at the Assembly and see that we all appear alike. Nevertheless, with all due respect, from the climate-change standpoint, we are not all the same. We are not the same with regard to the causes and effects of climate change. Today, it seems that the countries in the worst situation, the poorest countries, the countries most affected, are the ones that have to pay for climate change. We could say that humankind will become mature only if we can accept that there are common and shared responsibilities, albeit different ones, in the generation of climate change, so there must also be shared responsibilities in finding solutions.

Therefore, those who have contributed the most to generating the crisis should contribute the most to solving it. We must do that together, of course — together because we are all owners and inhabitants of planet Earth, and not one of us is planning to move anywhere else. On behalf of Honduras, I call upon all nations of the world, especially the most developed countries, to work to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to deal with the challenges and effects of climate change within the framework of co-responsibility, which all, without exception, should recognize as the principle guiding the actions of the international community.

The time has come to assume our joint responsibility as a moral and political imperative. In that firm but respectful belief, I call on the leaders of the world to work together to preserve this nation that we call the Earth.

The President: I thank the President of the Republic of Honduras for his statement.

Mr. Juan Orlando Hernández Alvarado, President of the Republic of Honduras, was escorted from the rostrum.

The President: The Assembly will now hear an address by the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

Mr. Robert Mugabe, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, was escorted to the rostrum.

President Mugabe: Fifteen years ago, in a setting similar to today's, we adopted the Millennium Declaration (resolution 55/2), which, through the Millennium Development Goals, mobilized global efforts aimed at meeting the pressing development challenges we faced at the time. On balance, some progress has been made in meeting those goals, but overall it has been unsatisfactory and insufficient. The uneven progress made within and among countries and regions has widened inequalities and in some cases deepened poverty.

Our gathering at this Summit therefore confirms our shared conclusion that the battle against poverty, inequality, exclusion and global warming is far from being won. It is also confirmation of our shared resolve to broaden the scope of our actions and launch an all-out war whose ultimate goal is the transformation of the world we live in today. To say that our development agenda for the next 15 years is ambitious does not quite describe the enormity of the transformational vision we have set ourselves.

The success of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which we have adopted today (resolution 70/1), will depend on several factors. Key among them are the concrete actions we will take at the national level to domesticate this international Agenda. In Zimbabwe, following a series of multistakeholder participatory consultations, including with development partners, we adopted a national position on how to align the new Agenda with our national development priorities. These are contained in Zimbabwe's agenda for sustainable socioeconomic transformation, which is based on four pillars — food security and nutrition, social services and poverty eradication, infrastructure and utilities and, lastly, value addition and beneficiation. Zimbabwe acknowledges that the Sustainable Development Goals

are integrated and indivisible. But due to our limited resources, there are severe constraints on our ability to implement all of them at the same time. Inevitably, therefore, we have had to prioritize their implementation. I want to confirm and underline, nevertheless, that Zimbabwe is committed to implementing all the Sustainable Development Goals. As resources become available we will naturally adjust the basket of goals that we are implementing at any one time.

In the context of my country's implementation of the new Agenda, our key priority and critical challenge is to put the economy back on a sustained growth trajectory. The reforms we are undertaking, including measures designed to attract investments, will materialize if the unjustified sanctions that Zimbabwe has been subjected to for the past 15 years are removed. In the spirit of the transformative Agenda we are all about to subscribe to, we call for their unconditional and immediate removal. Freed of the fetters of sanctions, my country stands a better chance of achieving its national vision of sustainable, inclusive growth, human-centred development, structural transformation and poverty eradication. I repeat: remove these sanctions. They are harming our country.

In pledging that no one will be left behind as we embark on this collective journey, our Agenda is a truly empowering instrument and mechanism. In Zimbabwe, we have adopted and are implementing several programmes aimed at empowering our previously disadvantaged people. A key component of our empowerment agenda has been a land reform programme that, in contradiction of its detractors, has lifted many families out of poverty. In the spirit of the new Agenda, we are determined to leave no one behind. We will therefore continue to refine and adjust our empowerment programmes so that they reach all the vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in our country.

It is critical that adequate financial resources be mobilized and made available if our new Agenda is to be successfully implemented. The focus on domestic public resources as the development Agenda's major source of funding corresponds to the principle of the primacy of national ownership of it. In order to generate the required levels of resources, national economies must grow. For growth to be achieved, in addition to appropriate domestic policies, our countries need a coherent and supportive international environment. This transformative Agenda must therefore not be limited to a national level but must also extend to the international arena, so that the systemic issues that impede our countries' development can be addressed.

We must reinforce international cooperation aimed at stemming the haemorrhaging of Africa's resources that results from transfer pricing, tax evasion and other criminal activities. We should redouble our efforts to agree on the Doha Development Agenda and put in place a universal, rules-based, predictable, transparent, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable trading system. Reform of the Bretton Woods institutions is long overdue. The issue of debt sustainability calls for urgent, clear-headed resolution. These are not new issues; they have been with us for too long. They constitute a huge part of the baggage that we must shed if the transformative new Agenda is to succeed. We hope that in adopting it, all of us are aware of what it entails. We hope that we are similarly committed to shedding old habits and contributing to ushering in the potentially glorious era that our new Agenda promises.

The success of our Agenda calls for more, not less, international cooperation and solidarity. The fact that we are enlarging the circle of our partnerships should not weaken existing ones or the mutual responsibilities we already share. In fact, it should strengthen them. The universality of this Agenda is not just that it applies to all of us but also that it belongs to all of us. It promises a brave new world, a new world that we must consciously construct, a new world that calls for the creation of a new global citizen. I want to believe that we are up to this task that we have voluntarily and collectively committed ourselves to. Our success and, in particular, the promise of a new world that awaits us depend on that commitment.

The President: I thank the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe for his statement.

Mr. Robert Mugabe, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, was escorted from the rostrum.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.